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Ethnic trends: Professor accused of stereotyping the successes and failings of races changing the face of British society

Asians emerge as the new moneymakers

JASON BENNETTO

Asians, particularly Indians, are set to become one of the most wealthy, dominant middle-class groups of the future, while Afro-Caribbeans are likely to be part of the inner-city working-classes, according to a report published yesterday.

But the study, based on the first national census of the British ethnic population, was yesterday criticised for stereotyping groups after an Oxford professor described Asians in the survey as facing a "Jewish future" and black people an "Irish future".

Among the findings of the study by leading academics is that new ethnic groups are emerging, notably "British blacks", who no longer associate themselves closely with their Caribbean origins, but have developed a new identity.

The 1991 Census, published yesterday by the Office for National Statistics, found that the ethnic minority in Britain is just about 3 million, or 5.5 per cent of the population.

The largest group is the Indian population at 840,000, followed by the Black-Caribbean population at 500,000 and the Pakistanis with 477,000. There are 212,000 Black-Africans, 163,000 Bangladeshis and 157,000 Chinese. The Irish community, which is not listed separately in the census is believed to be more than a million people.

Professor Ceri Peach, head of the social geography department at Oxford University, noted that Asians, particularly Indians and to a lesser extent the Pakistani population, but not the Bangladeshis, were becoming a population who were self-employed, owner-occupiers and white-collar workers, with professional qualifications. But that the Black-Caribbean population appeared to be heading

for a working-class future: waged-labour, state-educated, and council houses-dwellers.

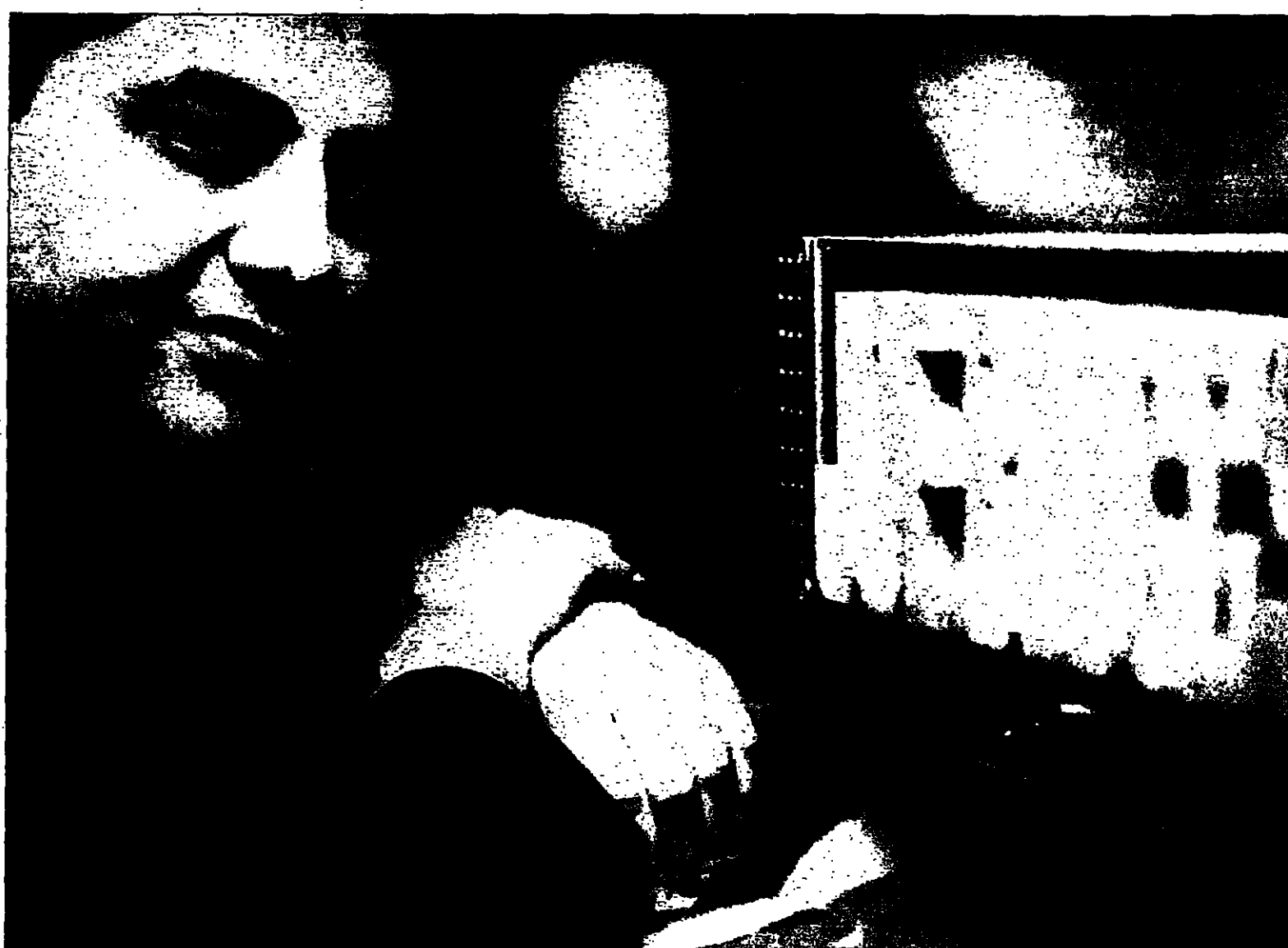
Part of the explanation for the success of the Indian population is the high level of education, success at finding economic independence and the tightening of immigration laws has meant that mainly skilled Indian people have entered Britain since the mid-1970s.

While admitting there was counter evidence for the generalisation, Professor Peach wrote: "One of the most telling summaries of the differences between the Caribbean and Asian settlement in Britain was that the Caribbean's faced what I term an 'Irish future' while the Asians face a 'Jewish future'."

A spokesman for the Commission for Racial Equality described this comment as a "stereotype". Professor Peach replied yesterday: "It might be stereotyping, but I think it conveys the flavour of the generalisation."

In the report Professor Peach also argued that there was now a high level of mixed white and Black-Caribbean households or "marriages" - about one in four - which had helped lead to the emergence of a "Black British identity". This is linked to a decline in the Caribbean population, which rose from about 28,000 in 1951 to a peak of 550,000 in 1971, to about 500,000 in 1991. Since 1984 there have been more "Afro-Caribbean" people born in Britain than in the West Indies.

On the question of education the most qualified groups are the Chinese, Black-African, and Indians, who all have higher achievements than British-born whites. But despite this advantage the study found that "most ethnic minorities are doubly disadvantaged. They have poorer chances of obtaining employment than do British born whites with similar qualifications



Success story: Shami Ahmed, director of the flourishing Joe Blaggs clothing company based in Manchester

and they have poorer chances of entering...the service class". The report concludes that the Indians and Chinese are among the groups of the high-performers, being well-educated,

property-owning and professional, while Bangladeshis are at the other end of the scale.

Another reason for the success of the Indian population is that many skilled workers, particularly businessmen and administrators, were expelled from East Africa. A large number had an English education and were skilled at dealing with complex bureaucratic systems.

The ethnic groups are concentrated in the South East and West Midlands, where about 40 per cent of the population live.

Ethnicity in the 1991 Census.

Volume 2 - The ethnic minority populations of Great Britain, HMSO £24.00. Issued by Office for National Statistics, Great George Street, London SW1P 3AQ

Integrity hard work, sweat and luck

JAMES CUSICK

There is no great mystique; the secret behind the success of Britain's Asian business moguls is hard work, long hours and a burning desire to succeed.

In the 50 years since the first Asian influx to Britain, Asians have moved on from the old stereotypical image of the struggling corner-shop businessman. There are now more than 300 Asian millionaires among the estimated 1.5 million Asian community in Britain. Their combined buying power is more than £6bn.

Although Asians own half the country's independent shops, their business activities have diversified into most spheres of commerce, ranging from heavy industry to serious property investment. The Census analysis, which forecasts that Asians face a "Jewish future" of being self-employed, owner-occupiers and white-collar workers with professional qualifications, is no surprise to the leading Asian businessmen.

In one of the most recent surveys of Britain's richest 500 people, Dr Swraj Paul, 65, the head of the Caparo steel empire, is estimated to be worth £500m. He came to Britain from India in 1966. Last year he did what would have been unthinkable a few decades ago, when he bought a steel mill in Pennsylvania. Regarded as a "shrewd operator", he lists three key qualities that Asians bring to the market place: "There is no secret, but three things: hard work and being prepared to sweat it out, integrity and luck."

Dr Paul, a close confidant of the shadow Chancellor, Gordon Brown, said: "The Indian is a big saver. He doesn't waste, doesn't spend. And he likes to be self-employed. And success is not for the individual, but for the whole family."

Chambers of Commerce, Masonic Lodges, Round Tables and Lions Clubs in certain areas have become Asian-dominated. There is also the "Durbur Club", a secretive dinner-party set of very rich Asians who back the Conservative Party. Few admit to being members.

Britain's banks have begun to acknowledge the potential of winning Asian business. When many Asians were hurt by the collapse of BCCI in 1990, the major clearing banks were given a chance to step in.

Nirmal Singh, chairman of the Bradford Asian Business Association who runs a quilt and textile business, agrees with Dr Paul. "Hard work, seven days a week is the secret. Arriving from the Punjab 30 years ago, he says many Indians who owned a small plot of land came to England and only wanted to work for themselves. His own rise, he says, went 'slowly, slowly'."

Mr Singh's son, Iqbal, soon to qualify as a lawyer, backs up the Census's findings about the next generation of Asians. "He has been to private school, university, is highly ambitious, is a Young Conservative chairman... this is the kind of opportunity I never had."

Other Asians among Britain's rich elite include Tom Singh, 45, whose New Look fashion retail business, based in Dorset, attracted institutional investors at the beginning of this year to the tune of £170m.

Varying fortunes of Britain's immigrant classes

Some of the main findings of the study into ethnic groups in Britain are:

BLACK-CARIBBEAN

Over 70 per cent of the group live in London and Birmingham. Levels of segregation are much lower than for African Americans in the United States and for Pakistanis and Bangladeshis in this country.

Suburbanisation of the population is clearly evident in their London distribution. The highest black Caribbean proportion in a single ward is Roundwood in Brent, north-west London.

Unemployment rates are more than double the white average, and for young men, reach more than 40 per cent. The Caribbean population is much more concentrated into flats than houses.

BLACK-AFRICAN

Almost one-third, 32 per cent, of the Black-African population was born in England. They are the most qualified

ethnic minority, particularly those in the age groups 30 to 44 and 45 to 59 - the result of the student origins of the very first generation of Black-African migrants.

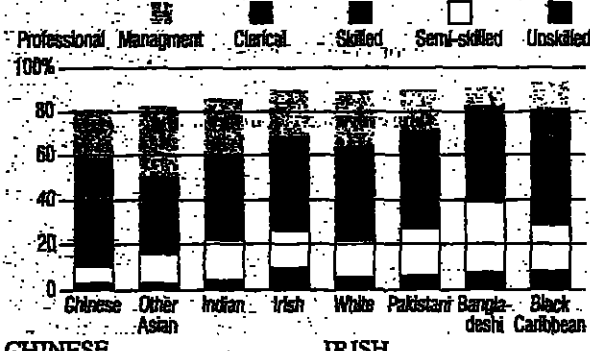
Two thirds of Black-Africans live in inner London. The highest concentrations are in Lambeth where almost one in 10 of all black-Africans live and where they constitute about one in 15 of the population.

BLACK OTHER

Of the Black-Other population, one-third described themselves as (black) British, 14 per cent as Mixed-Other and 25 per cent as a variety of other answers.

The relatively large proportion of mixed parentage reflects the high incidence of inter-ethnic partnerships among those of Caribbean descent. The Black-Other population is extremely youthful and a high proportion of Black-Other families are described as being cohabiting couples and lone parents.

SOCIAL CLASS OF BRITAIN'S ETHNIC GROUPS



CHINESE

Just over one quarter of the Chinese population was born in Britain.

About one third of the Chinese population was born in Hong Kong.

The Chinese population is more geographically dispersed than any other ethnic group. Although the stereotype of a Chinese is someone working in a restaurant or take-away, nearly 18 per cent of Chinese men are in professional occupations, compared with 7 per cent of white men.

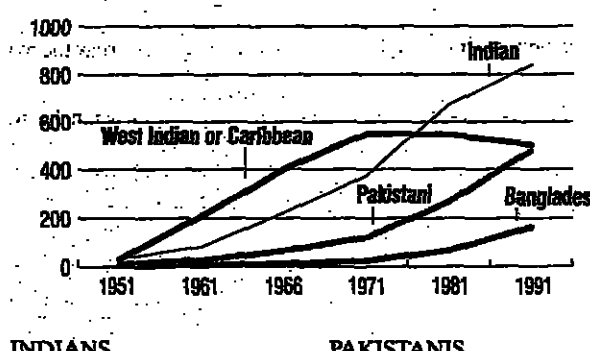
IRISH

About seven in 10 were born in the Republic of Ireland, with the remainder born in Northern Ireland.

The proportion, 7.6 per cent in the highest social group - those with professional occupations - is slightly higher than the average for all men.

But Irish-born are significantly over-represented amongst those who are homeless - sleeping rough, and those who are living in temporary accommodation in hostels and lodging houses.

HOW THE NUMBERS HAVE GROWN



INDIANS

The Indian population was the largest of all the ethnic groups numbering 840,000. Forty-one per cent were born in the United Kingdom, 37 per cent in the East Africa Commonwealth countries, such as Uganda.

More than one half of the Indian population live in the South East. The social class profile of the Indian population is skewed both towards the upper echelons of white-collar work and also towards semi-skilled manual work.

PAKISTANIS

The Pakistani population is most numerous in West Yorkshire, Greater Manchester, Lancashire and Scotland.

Almost six in every 10 Pakistani households consist of a married couple with dependent children, compared with five in 10 Indian households and 2 in 10 White households.

Pakistanis men are strikingly over-represented in the catering industries compared with White men. An emerging trend is self-employment, particularly in taxi-driving.

BDANGLADESHI

The Bangladeshi population is the youngest and fastest growing of all the ethnic groups recorded in the 1991 Census. The average size of Bangladeshi households is 5.3 persons, more than double the national average of 2.5 persons. Over 60 per cent of households where the head was born in Bangladesh contain five or more people. More than half the Bangladeshi population lives in London, and just under one half, 43 per cent, of London Bangladeshis live in the Borough of Tower Hamlets.

OTHER GROUPS

It appears that the largest other single group is of Arab or Middle-Eastern descent.

Just over 40 per cent live in Greater London, but unlike other ethnic groups, the areas of highest concentration in inner London are generally the most affluent boroughs, Westminster, and Kensington and Chelsea.

Unions warn of job losses as BA exports work to India

BARRIE CLEMENT
Labour Editor

British Airways, which last week announced record profits of £585m, is creating data processing jobs in India to take advantage of pay rates up to 13 times lower than Britain.

Union leaders yesterday warned that as many as 5,000 white-collar jobs at the airline could be "exported" to the sub-continent where on-screen administrative staff earn £2,000

a year rather than the £14,000 to £26,000 paid in Britain.

The company insisted yesterday that its operation in India was a "totally new business", but conceded in a letter to unions that management was taking advantage of an "attractive cost base".

British unions fear that a wide range of computer-based services could be transferred to the Third World with the potential loss of hundreds of thousands of British jobs.

In the letter to BA union officials dated 21 May, the company disclosed it was employing 150 in Bombay, rising eventually to 450.

Sean Keating, chief negotiator for the GMB general union at BA, accused the airline of having a "hidden agenda" to export British jobs.

On the same day that the airline announced record profits it also revealed that it intended to cut costs by a billion pounds by the year 2000, said Mr Keating.

"At a time of record profits, there is no justification for this. It is immoral," he said.

Mr Keating claimed that BA had already transferred jobs abroad and that telephone calls from the public to BA after 10pm were often handled in New York. A similar attempt to switch calls from the United States to Britain was blocked by legal action taken by American unions.

A system for correcting tickets had been switched to Delhi

four years ago, Mr Keating said. The number of jobs in Britain associated with the process declined from 100 to 17.

Mr Keating also said the union would demand assurances from the company and would seek legislation, similar to US law, stopping companies taking jobs out of Britain simply to take advantage of low pay.

An emergency resolution passed unanimously at the annual congress of the GMB in Blackpool yesterday viewed

with "extreme concern" the decisions by BA, saying the "destruction of employment" in Britain was based on "greed, profit and a disregard for workers in the European Community".

GMB officials said that in the absence of assurances over job security from the company, the union would consider balloting for industrial action.

A spokesman for BA denied the company had any plans to export jobs. The new venture in India, he said, was aimed at

selling information technology and administrative services to other airlines and companies in other industries.

More than 200,000 local government workers belonging to the GMB voted by a majority of 51 per cent to take industrial action in protest at a 2.9 per cent pay offer. Two other unions, Unison and the Transport & General, have already accepted the increase.

Richard Branson, page 13
Airline deal, page 16

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news

McDonald's 'used police sources' in libel case

DANNY PENMAN

Special Branch officers have been passing information to McDonald's which has helped the burger company in its libel action against two north London environmentalists, the High Court has been told.

McDonald's also employed up to seven private detectives to gather information on the pair. The revelations came to light during the court action between the burger chain and the "McLibel Two", Helen Steel and Dave Morris.

The hamburger chain alleges that in the late Eighties the pair distributed a leaflet accusing McDonald's of producing food linked to heart disease, diabetes and cancer. The leaflet also accuses the fast-food outlet of abusing animals, its workers and the environment.

The pair, who are defending themselves against the \$26bn corporation, deny libel, arguing that the leaflet paints an accurate picture of the company's activities. The case, which is now in its 23rd month and is expected to last at least until the

end of the year, is being heard without a jury.

Sydney Nicholson, McDonald's vice-president in the United Kingdom and former head of security, told the High Court that Special Branch officers supplied information to the company about environmentalists believed to be handing out the leaflet.

In 1989, officers from the Animal Rights National Index, which gathers information on animal-liberation activists for Special Branch, identified protesters outside the company's

headquarters. At least two of the campaigners were subsequently issued with libel writs by the burger chain.

Mr Nicholson told the court that Special Branch had said they considered the two environmentalists to be of "very little importance". What they were interested in was the possible connections with the animal liberation groups, and they did not indicate either of the two were involved in that, he said.

Mr Nicholson said he did not know if Special Branch had held any other meetings with the

burger company's private security agents because he never questioned them about their sources. "All the [McDonald's] security department have many contacts in the police service; they are all ex-police-men; I would not ask them who their contacts were," he said.

He said that he would use police contacts for information. "If I wanted to know something about someone I would almost certainly make contact with the local crimes beat officer, the local CID officer, the local collector," he said.

McDonald's also used two detective agencies with at least seven undercover agents to monitor activists from London Greenpeace, which produced the leaflet and to which Ms Steel and Mr Morris belong. The organisation has no connection with Greenpeace International.

London Greenpeace meetings were frequently attended by fewer than 10 people. Mr Nicholson said he did not believe the number of agents monitoring the group and attending meetings would affect the direction of the organisation.

Ms Steel claimed that at one meeting in 1991, four people attended, three of whom were undercover agents from two different private investigation agencies working for McDonald's.

Mr Nicholson said he "had no idea" if three of the four were acting for McDonald's. "If they did, then that was the object of me using two agencies," he added.

Agents acting for McDonald's also took letters belonging to the group. Mr Nicholson told the court that he gave categorical instructions for the agents to do "nothing illegal and nothing improper". But, he added, "People do make mistakes."

A spokeswoman for Scotland Yard denied that Special Branch regularly supplied information about suspected political, animal-rights or environmental activists to companies. They would, however, tell them if they believed an organisation posed a threat to them.

Major attacks lottery grants to gay groups

REBECCA FOWLER

John Major condemned the distribution of lottery money to charitable schemes for gay people, lesbians, deportees and prostitutes as "ill-founded and ill-judged" yesterday, in an unprecedented attack on the grant-making process.

His criticism followed the distribution of £159m to more than 2,000 projects by the lottery's Charities Board. Although beneficiaries included institutions such as the Red Cross, the Samaritans and the Prince's Trust, more controversial schemes were also helped.

Among those highlighted by Downing Street were the West Midlands Anti-Deportation Campaign, which received £66,000; the Leicester Lesbian, Gay and Bi-Sexual Centre, which received £50,000; the Gay London Policing Group, £26,000; and the Scottish Prostitutes Education Project, which received £82,000.

Mr Major told the Commons that while he welcomed the grants to charities, a minority were inappropriate. "A small number do not in my judgement reflect the way Parliament and the public expect lottery money to be spent."

The grants were based on the theme of youth and poverty, and the biggest went to a homeless project in Bradford, West York-

shire, which received £609,900. The *Big Issue* magazine, sold by homeless people, received £140,373, and the smallest grant included £500 to the Tong Recreation Association, on the Isle of Lewis.

The Charities Board defended the more controversial projects to receive grants on the basis they were picked on merit, not popularity. It said projects for gay people, lesbians and deportees accounted for less than 1 per cent of the total.

David Sieff, chairman of the board, said: "We must by law consider all applications we receive on merit. All groups offered grants submitted excellent applications to the board, which were assessed thoroughly against their criteria."

The grants were brought to the attention of Downing Street by Virginia Bottomley, the Secretary of State for Heritage, who has asked Mr Sieff for a written report on the choices, including The Gay London Policing Group, which works with victims of homophobic attacks, and aims to improve police attitudes. Its grant was to fund a youth worker.

Fen Coles, a project worker for the group, said: "We're disappointed the Government has reacted in this way. They seem to be saying some groups are of a higher priority than others when it comes to receiving National Lottery money."



Private Robert Jones (above) and his Victoria Cross and Zulu War Campaign Medal, which were sold yesterday. Below, a scene from the film *Zulu*. Photograph: Nicholas Turpin

Rorke's Drift VC auctioned for £80,000

A Victoria Cross won at the defence of Rorke's Drift during the Zulu War was auctioned for £80,000 yesterday and hopes were high that it will find its way to a regimental museum.

The medal, one of 11 awarded in the clash, was bought by an unidentified buyer at the sale at Westbury Hotel, Conduit Street, central London, for less than expected. It was awarded to Private Robert Jones, 21, of

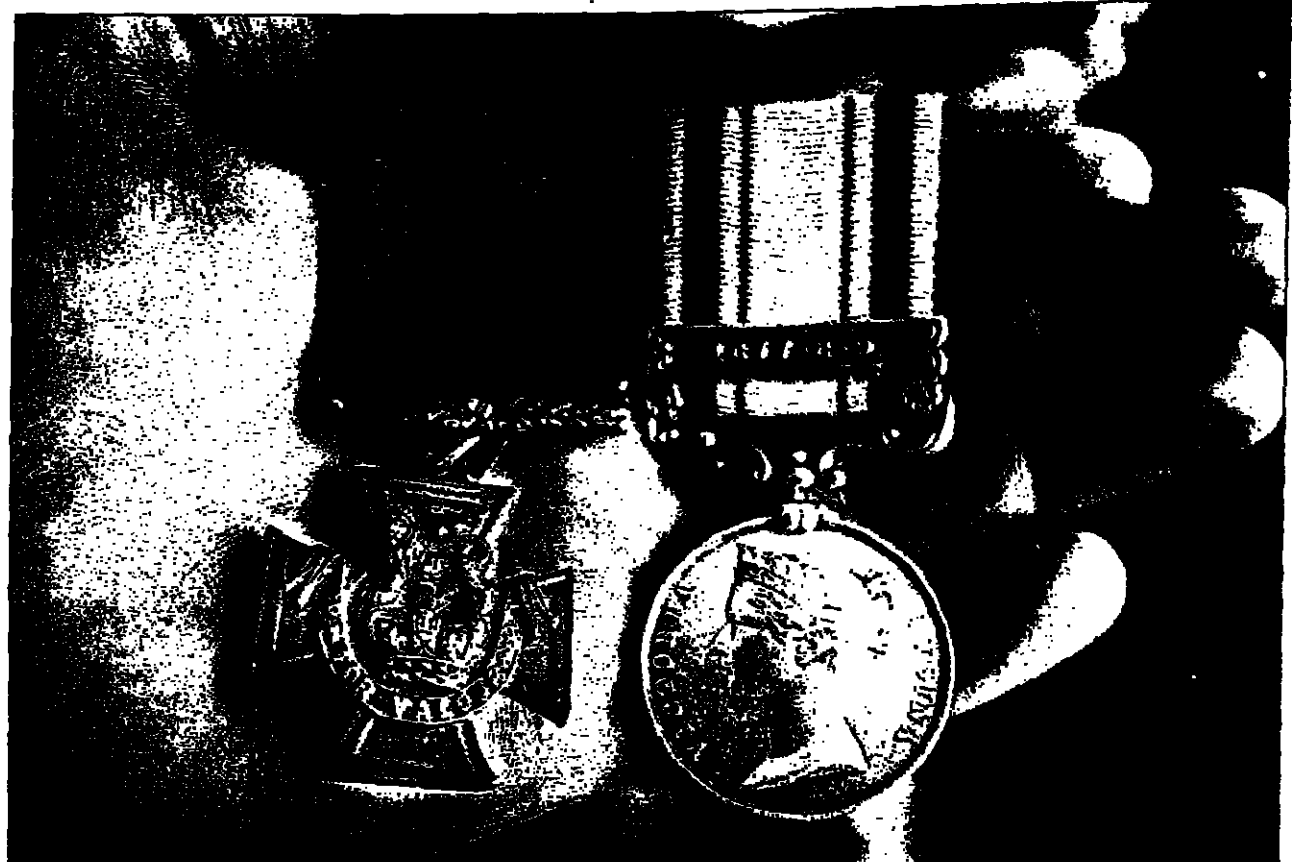
a regiment which later became the South Wales Borderers. He played a crucial part in the stand of 153 soldiers against 4,000 Zulu warriors in January 1879.

Family members including grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren were at the auction. Michael Norton, representing the buyer, refused to give any details other than that he or she was British but not Welsh.

Asked if the medal could be loaned to the regimental museum in Brecon, Powys, Mr Norton said: "It may be it will be loaned to the museum. It's not for me to say."

Jones's medal was one of seven won by the 24th Regiment of Foot. The other six are kept at the museum, which would have liked to have bid for it but did not have the funds.

Jones's great-granddaughter, Bronwen Bufton, of Presteigne, Powys, said the family was "very proud" to be able to see the medal, which had been bought by an unnamed investor for £98 in 1950. "We would very much like to have it back... at the museum in Brecon; that is the family's aim. We are hoping whoever has bought it is on our side. If he would be very kind and lend it to the museum that would be wonderful."



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JUDITH JUDD
Education Editor

Children born in the summer are still lagging behind their peers even when they take GCSE, according to new research to be published next week.

Research by officials from the University of Cambridge Examinations Syndicate shows that autumn-born pupils score marks 2 to 3 per cent higher than those born in the summer.

A series of studies has found that summer-born pupils lag behind perhaps because they often start school at Easter, two terms after everyone else or in September when they are just four and struggle to keep up.

The researchers, who looked at results of 20,000 16-year-old pupils in science, 68,000 in maths and 1,679 in English, show that the effect lasts well beyond primary school.

They say that summer-born pupils are less likely to be entered for the more difficult levels in GCSE subjects where papers are divided according to ability.

Among the weakest pupils, the summer-born are more likely not to be entered for GCSE exams at all.

Alf Massey, head of the syndicate's research and evaluation division and one of the researchers, said: "It seems to me very interesting that you can detect such strong effects of birth-date in the data for 16-year-olds."

"The differences caused by birth-date are as large as those caused by sex but we are concerned about the latter but not the former."

He urged secondary schools to make allowances for children's birth-date when children were being placed into sets

and when teachers were deciding which level of paper they should sit at GCSE

The research paper, by Mrs Massey, Gill Elliott and Emma Ross in the journal *Research Papers in Education*, suggests that teachers may be misled by the apparent immaturity of some pupils at 16, causing them to enter the pupils for papers which were too easy. It says that teachers' expectations of summer-born children may be too low.

It also points out that they fall furthest behind their peers in teacher-assessed course work and essay questions and are at less of a disadvantage in shorter questions.

However, the researchers argue that changing exams to offer pupils a bigger choice of types of tasks would not be easy.

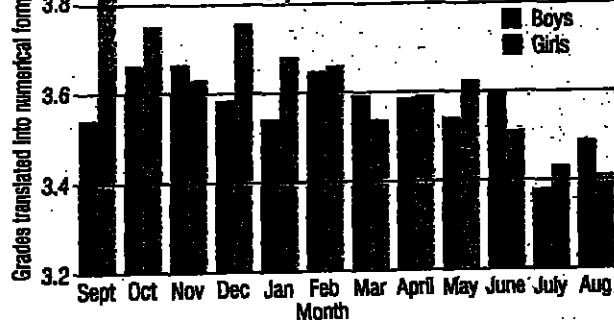
Government exam advisers have agreed that results of an optional national reading test for seven-year-olds should be adjusted to allow for age and given alongside the unadjusted result but the paper says that the introduction of similar measures at GCSE on which entry to employment and further education depends would be too contentious.

Mr Massey said parents of summer-born children should be aware of research findings and should consider carefully when it was appropriate for their children to start school. "Parents naturally want to get gifted children into schools early but there may be a case for delaying the start of school for those who are later developers. Some children born towards the end of the school year may be advised to wait until the beginning of the next school year."

Letters, page 11

HOW BIRTH DATE AFFECTS PROGRESS

Subject: Science



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arts news

edited by David Lister

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These people have Aids. They are art. They want you to touch them



Bare essentials: Two of the human exhibits in 'Don't Be Scared', which aims to challenge popular fears about touching people with Aids

Photograph: Nicholas Turpin

It is, claims its creator, "conceptual documentary expressionism". To be prosaically accurate, it is a man dying of Aids, sitting naked on a sofa, and you are encouraged to touch him.

But is it art? In a sense it is where installation art in the Nineties has been leading. Damien Hirst has explored attitudes to death through preserved animal carcasses; the American video artist Bill Viola shocked crowds in the Tate Gallery with a video he took of his mother dying.

And now, in London's newest visual arts space, people suffering from Aids are the exhibits.

Exhibition of suffering is designed to make people think hard, writes David Lister

Talking to them and touching them becomes the artistic experience, an experience in which the striking live image is only a part of the overall effect.

Provoking the visitor into thinking about social issues is an integral part of the artistic experience for the exhibition's creator. One's thoughts are easily provoked. Phials of HIV contaminated blood are on the white table in front of the sofa.

The exhibition "Don't Be Scared" is the concept of Tony Kaye, the millionaire adman responsible for the unscrupulous Guinness ad of two gay men kissing. Last year Kaye "exhib-

ited" a tramp to make people think about homelessness.

Yesterday, at a converted meat factory in St John Street, in London's Smithfield, Kaye opened an international touring exhibition whose focus was a person with Aids.

Five Aids victims are sharing the role of exhibit, four men and one woman. Four are American and one is German. Kaye's advertisements in the British press for a British prostitute with Aids received no response.

David Herndon-White, 35, from Los Angeles, has had full blown Aids for three years and is one of the exhibits on the

black leather sofa in the corner of the vast room, underneath a sign: "Don't Be Scared. Please Touch." He wears a white robe but seems eager to remove it.

"If you take the robe away, I'm sitting here with my disease," he says, "and that really scares people. People are terrified. Men tend not to come up close, women tend to engage in conversation."

It is important, he says, to talk about Aids at his first meeting with anyone. "I could walk out of here and pick up a girl or a guy in a bar within 30 minutes," he says. "I guarantee it will not occur to them to ask me about

Aids. People who talk to me here will see a guy with Aids who looks quite normal and they will see that they should be thinking about safe sex more often."

But advice to wear a condom does not make an artistic experience, as Kaye realises: "This particular piece began when I saw a plaque in an art gallery saying 'Please Do Not Touch'."

All the exhibits are in boxes or behind glass. I wanted to turn that on its head with a Please Touch exhibit. I immediately thought of a person with Aids. Once they are diagnosed, they are stripped of that basic human

pleasure of being hugged. So I thought maybe I can do something here.

"I'm 43 and I'm trying to carve a career as an artist, and what I'm doing here is art. When Constable painted landscapes without people in, that wasn't considered art. This has a social message with a resonance that comes from the experience of interacting with someone with Aids."

The new gallery is run by Jilly Beane, who runs the Soho Arts Club. She intends it to be a venue for exhibitions, readings and performance art. "The Aids situation has to be addressed," she says, "and this is a beautiful and poetic way of doing it."

Safe sex pays off with lower rates of HIV

TOM WILKIE
Science Editor

If artists think that Aids has fallen out of the public gaze, they may well be correct. Aids has, to some extent, fallen victim to the success of the Government's health education programme.

The much feared break-out of the disease from the highest risk groups into the general population has not happened – yet – with anything like the rapidity that so concerned policy makers in the mid-1980s. The Government's "Don't die of ignorance" campaign, much criticised at the time, does seem to have influenced sexual be-

haviour and to have helped slow the spread of infection with HIV, the virus responsible for the disease.

Other countries quailed at the idea of lecturing their people on safe sex and, as a result, Spain last year had four times as many new Aids cases as Britain; France had three times and Italy twice as many.

Even before the Government campaign, Britain's gay community – one of the most afflicted – had started adopting safer sex practices. Roughly a decade later, in 1994, what had appeared to be a relentlessly rising graph of Aids cases among homosexuals started to decline.

Between 1995 and 1999, according to official figures from the Public Health Laboratory Service, "it is expected that new Aids cases in homo/bisexual men may fall by 7 per cent".

A decade is the approximate "latency" period from infection to the development of full blown Aids and so the change in the incidence was an oblique, epidemiological demonstration of the linkage between HIV infection and unsafe sex.

However, the incidence of Aids is continuing to rise in the heterosexual community and among intravenous drug users, according to the PHLS figures. Any complacency could in-

crease the spread of the disease, as the experience of Africa and south-east Asia demonstrates.

Globally, about 10,000 people become newly infected every day. More than 11 million Africans and about 4 million inhabitants of south-east Asia are infected with HIV. In the Third World the disease is largely spread by unprotected heterosexual intercourse.

But a significant number of people in Britain are dying from the disease. Some are gay men; some are intravenous drug users; some are haemophiliacs; and others have acquired the disease from heterosexual intercourse.

Viral diseases are not

amenable to treatment with antibiotics, such as penicillin, which attack and kill only bacteria. Early hopes that existing anti-viral drugs might prove efficacious against HIV have been dashed.

Vaccination to boost the body's inbuilt defences against microbial attack is the most efficient method of combating viral infections. But HIV is a "new" virus of a type that was previously little understood. It carries its genetic material in the form of RNA rather than the more usual DNA and it insinuates itself into the body's cells, tricking them into converting the viral genetic instructions out of RNA into DNA and then in-

serting them into the cell's own double helix strand of DNA. The cell's biochemical machinery is hijacked into becoming a factory for the production of more and more copies of HIV.

But HIV has a further twist: the cells that it infiltrates are those of the immune system – the very ones that ought to be fighting off infections.

The early hopes of a quick fix were fuelled in the US by pressure from lobby groups on behalf of the dying. In recent times however, the focus of research has switched to lower profile work which recognises that humanity's struggle against this killer will be a long haul.

DAILY POEM

In an Abandoned Garden

By Han-Shan

My house is at the foot of the green cliff,
My garden, a jumble of weeds I no longer bother to mow.
New vines dangle in twisted strands
Over old rocks rising steep and high.
Monkeys make off with the mountain fruits,
The white heron crams his bill with fish from the pond.
While I, with a book or two of the immortals,
Read under the trees – mumble, mumble.

Han-Shan's ode to an untended garden, translated here by Burton Watson, was written in China in the mid-7th century and is proof – if proof were ever needed – that gardens have always provoked indolence and action in equal measure. Han-Shan appears with Wilde, Tennyson, Swinburne, Clare and Hardy in a section "Ruined Gardens" in Everyman's pocket *Garden Poems* (£9.99). Robert Louis Stevenson, Robert Frost and Edward Thomas appear under the more robust heading "Gardeners". The collection is selected and edited by John Hollander.

Abuse of God offends TV viewers

MARIANNE MACDONALD
Media Correspondent

Television broadcasters are not aware of the potential offence caused by "God", "Almighty", and "Jesus Christ" when they are used as swear words, the Broadcasting Standards Council warned yesterday.

Publishing its annual survey, the council said research showed viewers were upset by unjustified swear words, with 57 per cent arguing there was "too much" bad language on television. Bad language occurred in just under half prime-time programmes on terrestrial television last year and four out of five programmes on monitored satellite stations, the BSC noted.

Particular offence was caused by use of swear words before the 9pm watershed. Lady Howe, who chairs the BSC, said: "We very much want to have discussions with the broadcasters about this so that we can explain to them and discuss together just what is going on."

The council has identified the words "God", "Almighty", "Jesus Christ", "Holy Mother", "Christ" and "Hell" as potential bad language. "Maybe broadcasters don't realise the danger of offence that they cause," Lady Howe said.

Her deputy chairman, Lord Dubs, said although people of strong religious belief were a minority, "people are unhappy that this minority group is

being offended and hurt". Drama, films and alternative comedy programmes were singled out as frequent offenders.

The BSC warning follows an interview with the *Men Behaving Badly* actor Martin Clunes, in which he said he believed that in 10 years' time people would be saying the "F-word" on children's television.

At the other end of the spectrum, however, Mary Whitehouse, of the National Viewers' and Listeners' Association, has written to the Director of Public Prosecutions demanding that the BBC be charged over the use of a four-letter word in Dennis Potter's penultimate play *Kafkaesque*. But Lord Dubs said context

and audience expectations were important. "There are moments of high tension which are seen by audiences to justify the use of bad language." Whereas if a swear word suddenly appeared in a soap, people would be offended, he added.

The number of viewers surveyed who said there was too much violence on television fell from 66 per cent in 1994 to 57 per cent last year.

More than half of the 1,000 respondents (58 per cent) said there was the "right amount" of sexual activity on television. Last year around 21 per cent of programmes contained sex. *Monitoring Report 1995 No 4*: Broadcasting Standards Council, £10.

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Paddy Ashdown tells Donald Macintyre why Euro-sceptics are wrecking our democracy and of his zeal for reform of the political system



Champion of the European dream

Paddy Ashdown has warned that the emergence of the Ross Perot-like Sir James Goldsmith was the latest sign of the "dangerous mess" British politics found itself in. As the billionaire businessman orchestrated the defection of Tory Euro-sceptics in the Commons, the leader of the Liberal Democrats went on to the counter-attack by outlining to the *Independent* his vision of Britain's future role in Europe.

Despite opinion polls showing voters' apathy on the subject, Mr Ashdown said, Sir James and his £20m would make Europe the central issue at the next general election. He warned all parties to be "well equipped for that", and admonished pro-European voices in British politics for being too slow to speak out and champion the pro-European cause.

This problem had been compounded by the exclusion of the public from the debate about Europe. So far the discussion had been conducted in the "gilded palaces of Europe and in Commons mumbo-jumbo", Mr Ashdown said, and it was therefore scarcely surprising that "some rather ugly beasts were gathering at the edge of the campfire". Most germinally, Mr Ashdown told the Oxford Union last night, Sir James's emergence as a Ross Perot in the making was the latest sign yet of the dangerous "mess" in which British politics finds itself - a mess which he told his audience is nothing less than a crisis of democracy.

Such struggles as the one for women's votes were testament to that, he said. So too, though this was change "totally in the wrong direction", was the transformation of much of Britain into an "unelected quango state". The message for Labour was: "For goodness sake get your act together. This is the best chance we have had probably had this century for modernising the British constitution... it is the precursor of all the things Labour wants to do, and in a different way we want to achieve."

Mr Ashdown had two distinct and related worries about Labour. The first was that Mr Blair's party has not yet grasped the importance of sys-

temic change to the functions of government; he was unsure that constitutional reform has yet "entered the iron of its soul". He cites, using the poll tax as an example, of what a government with the support of 40 per cent of the population can get wrong. There was also a lesson from the poll tax of the need for welfare reform, which he argued could only be achieved with parties sharing power. Pro-PR figures such as Robin Cook and Jeff Rooker understood that; but, he said, "the jury's out" on whether others, including Tony Blair, yet did.

The second worry is muddle over the mechanics. Mr Ashdown doesn't believe that Labour plans to remove the right of hereditary peers to vote is more than a "half hearted change" which will merely install the biggest quango in the

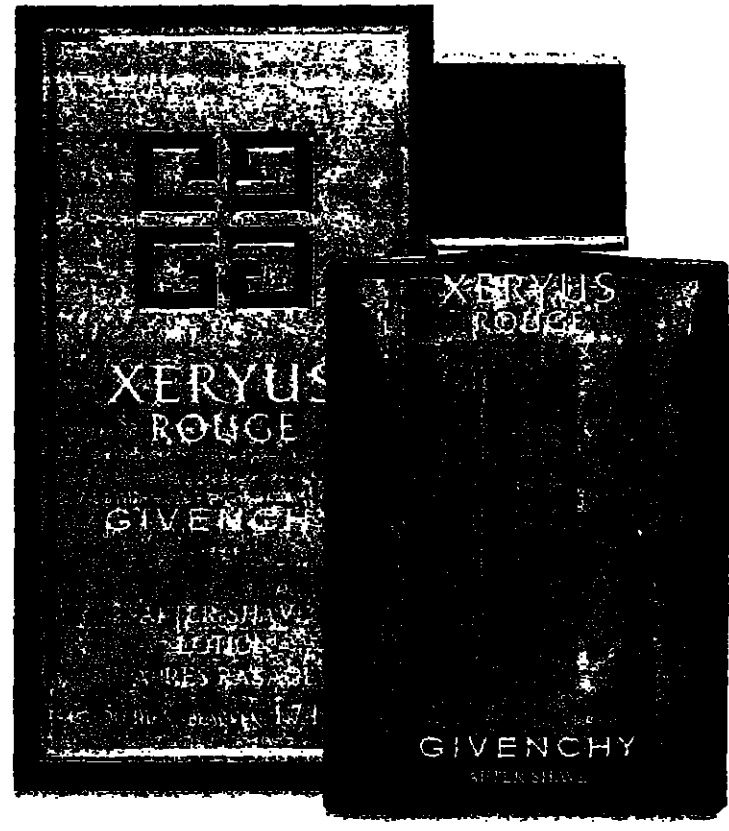
land; and he detects signs of Labour panic about Scottish devolution - over the tax raising powers of the Scottish parliament, and over the so-called "West Lothian question" of Scottish MPs voting on English-only business. But the bigger worry still was over proportional representation. Mr Ashdown welcomed Mr Blair's successful fight to retain Labour's commitment to a referendum on PR, though he grumbled about the Labour leader's refusal to say which side he will be on. He will insist today that the referendum is early on in the next Parliament. If Mr Blair does back the change then it must be at a time when the government is popular and not doomed to lose. And secondly the new system must be in place before the next election.

here: would it be the Speaker who put successive proposals for a sustainable government to the Commons? Such a move would keep the monarch forever out of party politics. The plan goes hand in hand with Mr Ashdown's idea for fixed-term Parliaments, topical now that the government was waiting for the best moment to call an election. Instead of snap elections we would have the "constructive vote of confidence" in which an Opposition only brought down a government in a vote of confidence if it could assemble an alternative by trading with other parties.

For Mr Ashdown constitutional reform was the way to restore "depth" to British politics. Here he was almost apocalyptic. He said he had seen Irish politics turn from a "deep politics" to a "narrow thin crust" which can be easily subverted by a few extremists. He feared the same here. We were back to Sir James Goldsmith and the headline, frightened Euro-sceptics. By reconnecting British politics to a world outside we "deepen" once again the political system. "If power is the skin on the custard; if it rests with a few people at the top then that power is easily subverted by a weak prime minister who appeases a passing group of people who tweak it by the tail."

Ashdown on Europe: 'Rather ugly beasts are gathering at the campfire'
Ashdown on the constitution: 'This is becoming an unelected quango state'
Ashdown on Labour: 'They must grasp that electoral reform is vital'

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1996: 37,000 under-5s die every day; many survivors are slaves

JAMES ROBERTS

Get pregnant in the developing world, and your chances of dying or being disabled as a result are one in four. If your child survives the pregnancy and labour, then he or she still has a one in ten chance of dying by the age of five. Survive all this and your child's chances of going on to join the world's army of child labourers are around one in ten in Asia and one in four in Africa.

These are just some of the facts of life and death described in two reports published this week: *The Progress of Nations*, Unicef's annual review of the welfare of the world's children, and *Child Labour*, a discussion document which the International Labour Office is putting before Labour ministers from 173 countries in Geneva today.

Global statistics of the kind quoted are necessarily impressionistic, broad brush-strokes rather than precise calculations. But research is continuous and so occasionally the broad figures have to be revised. For some years, the generally accepted figure for maternal deaths has been half a million a year. But new research has prompted the United Nations Children's Fund to adjust this figure upwards to 585,000. As a result, and in view of the obvious fact that welfare of mother and infant are inseparable, the primary focus of the latest Unicef report is on what it calls this "unspoken tragedy".

Behind the cold figures lies horror. Perhaps 140,000 women die in their teens or twenties of internal haemorrhaging. Around 75,000 die having attempted an abortion - some 50,000 desperate women and girls try this every day. Most survive, but with the legacy of some crippling disease. Another 75,000 die with brain and kidney damage in the convulsions of eclampsia, described by one survivor as the worst imaginable feeling in the world.

The report also examines malnutrition amongst children. It confounds those who assume that the record of Africa is the worst in the world. There are 86 million children under five who are malnourished in South



Burden of responsibility: Rural poverty has created an environment in which children suffer to feed their families

Photograph: Francesco Zizola

Asia (50 per cent of all under-fives), as against 32 million (25 per cent) in sub-Saharan Africa. This is partly a result of a whole mix of cultural attitudes and assumptions in South Asia which prevents mothers from being able to look after their children properly. Women are subordinated in most of the world, the report says, but in South Asia, the subordination is of a different order altogether, with the obvious consequences for the quality of life of mother and child.

"However much a mother may love her children, it is all but impossible for her to pro-

vide high-quality child care if she herself is poor and oppressed, illiterate and uninformed, anaemic and unhealthy, has five or six other children, lives in a slum or shanty, has neither clean water nor safe sanitation, nor support from health services, nor her society, nor the father of her children."

It is poverty, too, which ensures that 37,000 children under five die every day, mostly from five diseases for which we long ago discovered cheap cures: measles, diarrhoea, malaria, pneumonia and malnutrition. "Children in rich countries do not die from the

common, preventable diseases of childhood," says the Unicef report. "Children in poor countries do."

The crushing weight of poverty also adds to the pressure on families to send their children out to work at the earliest opportunity. "Poverty is the single greatest force which creates the flow of children into the workplace," says the ILO. "It forces many children to work full-time for their own and their families' survival."

The ILO has campaigned to end child labour since it was founded in 1919. And with 73 million children between 10

and 14 economically active in 1995 - 13.2 per cent of the total number of 10-14s - the campaign goes on. While Asian children make up about half of these figures - sometimes as slaves, sometimes as part of a miserably exploited industrial workforce - Africa comes out worst.

One African child in three is engaged in economic activity. Most of these are working on the land, and it is hard work: a child can be made to run 15 miles each day, leading a team of animals up and down a pumping track to feed a herd from a well. It is the extremely

arduous nature of rural labour that helps explain why cities attract so many street children. The scale of migration is directly linked to the severity of working conditions in rural areas. Even after experiencing the horrors of life as one of the thousands of street children in, say, Nairobi, children can still prefer these conditions to those in the rural areas.

Child Labour: What is to be done? ILO, Vincent House, Vincent Square, London SW1P 2NB. *The Progress of Nations*, Unicef, 55 Lincoln's Inn Fields, London WC2A 3NB.

SIGNIFICANT SHORTS

The Indian Prime Minister, Deve Gowda, neared victory in a confidence motion yesterday even as corruption charges mounted against one of his government's pillars of political support. The first of two days of parliamentary debate on the motion was overshadowed by allegations against former prime minister Narasimha Rao's ruling Congress party. Congress has promised to give Mr Gowda's centre-left minority government the backing it needed to survive the vote of confidence expected today. The opposition sought to capitalise on a widening rift over import scandal and corruption. Mr Gowda's United Front alliance, which in recent elections campaigned against Congress over alleged corruption. *Reuters - New Delhi*

Bangladesh mounted a huge security operation for the country's second parliamentary elections in four months and pledged that everything possible had been done to ensure voting was clean. Bangladeshis believe much of their future depends on today's elections, whose success is seen as crucial if the country of 115 million people is to put a history of military rule and political chaos behind it. Troops stationed in all 64 administrative districts and big cities were on standby to help some 400,000 police and paramilitary soldiers guarding polling stations. *Reuters - Dhaka*

France would stand by Quebec whatever political future it chooses, Prime Minister Alain Juppé said on arriving in Canada's mainly French-speaking province, which has a strong separatist movement. After talks in Ottawa with Canadian Prime Minister, Jean Chrétien, the French leader hailed what he called "the spirit of resistance" of the people of Quebec. "Whatever destiny you choose, France will be at your side," Mr Juppé said. *Reuters - Quebec*

Seven people were arrested near Cadiz charged with smuggling a ton of hashish into Spain. The detentions concluded a four-month investigation into how traffickers' boats from Morocco could elude armed patrols along Spain's southern coast. One of the arrested, policeman Antonio Martinez Perez, is accused of giving the traffickers details of Civil Guard patrols in exchange for money. Hashish trafficking from Morocco has increased recently, despite a clampdown on fast launches based in Gibraltar, prompting the authorities to suspect the growth of alternative networks. *Elizabeth Nash - Madrid*

Aids has become the main killer of men aged 25 to 49 in Copenhagen, outstripping heart disease and cancer and accounting for one in four deaths, the Danish *Medical Journal* reported yesterday. "This puts the Danish capital in the same league as the worst Aids-hit cities in the United States," the journal reported. *Reuters - Copenhagen*

A Belarusian anti-terrorist unit shot and killed a man who seized at least 15 children and their teacher hostage in the capital of Belarus. The man broke into the kindergarten in Minsk, the capital, claiming he had a bomb inside a suitcase he was carrying. The attacker ordered the children, aged four to five, and their teacher to line up against the wall, said another teacher who was in the room. The kidnapper was killed with two shots to the head after security agents determined he did have an explosive device inside his suitcase. *AP - Minsk*

Eugenio Scalfari, founder of *La Repubblica*, won the Lechia International Prize for Journalism, Italy's most prestigious media award. Mr Scalfari, 72, retired as editor-in-chief of the Italian daily this year, on the 20th anniversary of the newspaper. He continues to write editorials. *AP - Rome*

Tearful Dole calls it quits in the Senate

RUPERT CORNWELL
Washington

With some tears, a typically rambling speech, but not a little pride in a job well done, Bob Dole yesterday bade farewell to the Senate that has been his life for a quarter of a century but which has turned into an obstacle to the one job he was even more, the presidency of the United States.

For a day drenched in history, it started normally enough, with Mr Dole the Republican Majority leader rising at 9.45am to speak about an amendment to trade legislation and a bill consolidating Medicare funding.

But just after noon, he rose to speak again. And when he finished this time, he truly had become just Citizen Dole, "with nowhere to go but the White House, or home."

"I want to thank all my colleagues ... he began, only to stop abruptly, choking, as he stood for the last time at the Majority leader's desk. But quickly he gathered himself,

paying tribute to family, friends, and staff, quoting Abraham Lincoln and Dwight Eisenhower, those Republican presidents from the Midwest he hopes to emulate.

Mr Dole's week of leave-taking here has had its hiccup, not least a defective sound system at the annual Senate-House Republican dinner on Monday, which turned some scheduled entertainment from Congressman Sonny Bono (he of Sonny and Cher fame) into an ordeal that had the audience fleeing for the exits.

Yesterday was different though - a morning in the finest gentleman's club in Washington, where everyone knew exactly how to behave. For two hours the tributes flowed from Republicans and Democrats alike, praising him for his courage, wit, grace under pressure and legislative skills.

It was the Senate at its most typical: unctuous, pompous and utterly forgiving, hiding partisanship beneath old-world manners. "He will cast a long

shadow as he goes," pronounced Robert Byrd of West Virginia, a Democratic Majority leader and himself one of Capitol Hill's most venerable monuments.

In reply, Mr Dole lapsed into that familiar fractured syntax to describe the institution he has served for 27 years.

"I've had a great life, a few bumps along the way ... A lot of different views here, like America, that's what America's all about. We are the envy of the world, we've lit liberty's torch here, that's what America's all about, a beacon of hope ... Our best tomorrows are yet to come," he said.

Thus ends a Congressional career of 35 years, including a record 11 years as Republican leader in the Senate, and no less than 12,781 roll-call votes (the electronic era has yet to reach the floor of the Senate), which if they took place consecutively would last day and night for four-and-a-half months.

But "to everything there is a season", Mr Dole said, "and my



Dole: Senate blocked his path to the White House

season in the Senate is about to come to an end. However, this is far less the closing of one chapter than the opening of another."

When he finished, his colleagues gathered around him, applauding for a full 10 minutes until he left the chamber for ever. Sheila Frahm was sworn in as his successor.

Now the last and toughest battle begins. "Ad Astra Per Aspera," reads the Kansas state motto, "To the Stars Through Hard Times," and it could have been written for him. No Majority leader has, and only two sitting Senators - Warren Harding and John F. Kennedy - have been elected president this century, which is why Mr Dole yesterday called it quits.

Robinson seeks to redefine UN role

DAVID USBORNE
New York

Mary Robinson, the Irish President, last night staunchly defended the record of the United Nations and appealed for a new commitment to its ideals by the world's governments. Her speech had the ring of a platform to launch her candidacy to become the organisation's next Secretary-General.

Mrs Robinson, who was speaking at a foreign affairs forum in New York, called for the development of a new "global ethic" or the "idea of community at the global level". That meant, she said, "improving, strengthening and developing the pre-eminent multilateral organisation - the United Nations."

Her comments, which also included an appeal for increased aid to the developing world, seemed calculated to advertise herself as a possible successor to Boutros Boutros-Ghali, whose first five-year term as UN Secretary-General expires at the end of this year.

Decrying the current financial

crisis that faces the UN and berating countries for allowing their support to it to wane, Mrs Robinson peppered her speech with criticisms that seemed aimed in particular at the United States. She begins a state visit to the US today.

Achieving the "global ethic", she said, would mean, in particular, new efforts to help poorer nations gain prosperity through increased aid, "amounting perhaps to a mutual contractual relationship between donor and recipient rather than a relationship of dependency."

She was especially scathing of the inattention of governments to Africa. "Decision-makers in the developed world looking at the chaos and horror of a Liberia, a Somalia or a Rwanda, too often see only the 'heart of darkness' and think only how their own citizens can be safely evacuated."

"It is not acceptable for countries of the West, after centuries of interference and intrusion, to limit their involvement now to rapid armed intervention into situations of chaos to rescue their own nationals."

Syria painted as the villain of the Middle East

ROBERT FISK
Beirut

In the Middle East, you can still find old maps which show Damascus as the capital of the Arab world, the bastion of Umayyad power. But just now, Syrians might be forgiven for believing that their neighbours are gunning up on President Hafez al-Assad's regime, in a deliberate attempt to isolate and even destabilise the country.

State Department claims that bombs have exploded in Syria, Turkey's ever-broadening military alliance with Israel, Israeli threats to attack Syrian targets in Lebanon and Jordanian allegations that Syrian "terrorists" have been captured crossing the Syrian-Jordanian border all appear to be lining Syria up for political or even military attack.

Syrian reservists were sent to the country's northern border with Turkey at the height of Israel's assault on Lebanon last April for fear that Turkish

forces might - with Israeli collusion - strike into northern Syria to attack PKK guerrillas. Syria maintains an unofficial alliance with the PKK leader Abdullah Ocalan, whose press conferences, held to announce new or broken ceasefires with Turkish forces, are almost always held in a region of the Lebanese Bekaa valley in which Syrian troops have firm control.

But Israel's agreement to upgrade 54 Turkish F-4 Phantom fighter-bombers and, even more important, Israel's newly acquired permission to fly its combat aircraft in Turkish air space, present a very clear military threat to Syria.

So clear, in fact, that even President Mubarak of Egypt, Israel's oldest peace partner, has condemned the Turkish-Israeli alliance.

A long-running dispute over Turkey's overuse of the waters of the Euphrates river and the far older irredentist claim by Syria to the land around

Iskenderun (the Syrian town of Alexandretta which the French gave to Turkey just before the Second World War in the vain hope that Ankara would join the Allies in fighting Hitler) form deeper, but no less serious causes of dispute between the two nations.

Ominously, the US State Department spokesman, Nicholas Burns, has now chosen to remind Syria that Washington is concerned about "terrorism directed against Turkey and coming from Syria." The Burns statement is almost identical to Israeli claims that Hizbollah "terrorism" against Israeli occupation troops in southern Lebanon is supported by Syria.

Much to Syria's annoyance, the United States has maintained Syria on its list of "countries supporting terrorism," a status that effectively deprives Damascus of economic aid and US technology.

On the same day that the Americans expressed their sup-

port for Turkey, another State Department spokesman volunteered the information that the US Embassy in Damascus was warning American citizens in Syria to take precautions after "several explosions" in the country. He gave no details of these incidents and his remarks were promptly denounced by the pro-Syrian Lebanese paper *Ash-Sharq* as "rumours ... which are intended to create internal tension and turmoil."

Reports in Lebanon say that a number of minor explosions - "sound bombs" was how they were described - had been heard in Damascus but that they were so small as to be insignificant. One rumour, also denied by Syria, says that a car bomb was defused in the port of Lattakia.

The growing pressure on Syria almost precisely coincided with Benjamin Netanyahu's Likud election victory in Israel, prompting Syrians to question whether the United States and

its allies were trying to distract world attention away from the collapse of the "peace process" by demonising Syria as the real culprit behind the failure of US-Israeli policy. A year ago, for example, US Secretary of State Warren Christopher, talking to students in Indiana, was describing President Assad as a "brilliant man" and "a fine conversationalist" who had made "a strategic decision" for peace with Israel. Yet by last month, Mr Christopher had changed his tune. He was worried, he told the *Los Angeles Times*, by President Assad's "hesitancy and his mistrust" and feared that the Syrian president's "suspicion and fear" might prevent him making peace. No one questioned why Mr Christopher should have so suddenly altered his opinion of one of the most powerful Arab leaders.

Since the Likud election win, US commentators have also been accusing Syria of sabotaging peace, characterising Mr Assad as a "fading tyrant" and as a man who welcomed the Likud victory because it would allow him to "keep" Lebanon at the expense of the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights. All the evidence points to the contrary - that while Lebanon remains a strategic asset under Syrian control, the return of the Golan Heights to Syria in return for a full peace remains the be-all and end-all of Syrian policy.

Reading the Israeli press, meanwhile, with its open suggestions that Syrian targets inside Lebanon - or even inside Syria - should be attacked in response to further Hizbollah guerrilla attacks on Israeli troops inside Lebanon, shows just how far we have gone since last summer, when Shimon Peres was predicting a Syrian peace by the year's end with mutual security for both sides. Security, however, is the one thing Syria's enemies now seem anxious it should be deprived of.

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Russian elections: President's campaign aims to climax on high note as over-confidence threatens to snatch away victory

Yeltsin rallies youth vote with rock and roll

PHIL REEVES
Moscow

Boris Yeltsin's campaign bandwagon will clatter into Moscow's Red Square today for one of his most important closing flourishes, a rally to whip up enthusiasm among Russia's young people for Sunday's presidential election.

The event coincides with a national holiday to mark Russia's declaration of independence six years ago, an occasion which Mr Yeltsin clearly aims to use as a platform to drum up further support in his effort to

defeat his Communist rival, Gennady Zyuganov.

If past performances are any guide, he will exploit it to the full. The organisers expect the president to appear on stage alongside several popular Russian rock bands. The audience will be bombarded with messages telling them to "choose or lose". Pictures will be broadcast nationwide on state television, which has come increasingly under the sway of the Kremlin as the election approaches.

The Independence Day gala - which includes fireworks and marching bands - is a reminder

of how keen the Yeltsin campaign is to mobilise the young vote, which tends to be anti-Communist. "A large number of young people stayed home during December's parliamentary elections," said Dmitry Tugarin, spokesman for the organisers. "We have to get them out this time."

Nor is this the Yeltsin team's only anxiety. There are signs that some presidential handlers think his campaign is over-heating, not least because of his lead in the polls. Mr Yeltsin's boast that he will win the first round outright by getting more

than 50 per cent has led to worries that voters will conclude he is assured of victory and opt for a third candidate - or not vote at all.

In what may have been a move to dampen down over-optimism, Yakov Borovoy, press director at his campaign headquarters, yesterday produced figures predicting Mr Yeltsin would lose to Mr Zyuganov in the first round - with 26 per cent to the Communists' 28 per cent.

This contradicts claims by Sergei Filatov, one of the top co-ordinators of the president's team, who expected to see Mr

Yeltsin with 30-35 per cent support by the end of this week. Mr Borovoy said his figures were based on nationwide surveys. He also said the number of undecided voters had narrowed to a core of about 15 to 20 per cent of the electorate, dominated by poorly educated, low-income, elderly women.

If Mr Yeltsin is beaten by Mr Zyuganov, it will alarm supporters in Russia and the West, but it should be no surprise. The Communist-nationalist coalition has a strong grassroots organisation throughout most of provincial Russia, where re-

sentment over market reforms is strong.

Moreover, there are several other election day headaches. The first round coincides with the Euro 96 football match between Russia and Germany, which could easily lure voters away. And many city-dwelling Russians traditionally spend the day working in the vegetable gardens of their "dachas" - country houses, where they can only vote if they apply for permission to do so. Mr Yeltsin's campaign managers, who want a high turnout, say that few have so far applied.

But if Mr Yeltsin does come second, it will not be for want of trying to win. He was in the southern city of Novocherkassk yesterday, shrewdly reminding voters of the horrors of Communism by promising to build a monument to 23 people who were shot by the Soviets for taking part in a demonstration over food shortages in 1962.

Today's event is likely to be another flamboyant performance from the all-singing, all-dancing Mr Yeltsin - and a contrast to Mr Zyuganov's last outing in Moscow. Mr Zyuganov has been criticised for

being dull, but these days it is truer to describe him as plain odd. Last Sunday he held a rally, featuring peels of (Orthodox) church bells, a parade of icons, and scantily clad majorettes, at which he launched into a passage from the Bible, comparing Mr Yeltsin to Satan.

"Let's remember what is in the Apocalypse," he said. "The Devil has sent two beasts from hell. The first has a mark on his head (a reference to Mikhail Gorbachev), and the second has a mark on his hand" - a reference to Mr Yeltsin, who is missing two fingers.

View from Vladimir could be the clincher

Vladimir - We were sitting in the restaurant of an hotel in Vladimir, a provincial city where Julia, the daughter of an actor, was born and has so far spent all her 25 years.

Over the past few weeks I had heard a lot from young people about their attitude to politics, and in particular, the presidential election in just over a fortnight's time. But they were mostly Muscovites, the advocates and beneficiaries of reforms. What I wanted from Julia Smolnikov was to know what life was like for young people outside the liberal-leaning cosmopolitan centres of Moscow and St Petersburg. What was it like out here, in Russia's answer to Northampton or Coventry?

Her grandfather had been a big wheel in the regional Communist party, a sincere Leninist who had declined to feather his nest so like many others in the nomenklatura. "People say to us 'Surely you have some money from him?', but we got nothing," she owns no car, and no property. When she goes on holiday this summer to Germany, she will travel on a \$60 (£40) coach ticket and then get a temporary job to pay her way home. Her biggest treat is being able to buy music cassettes and eat chocolate.

Although it seems a peaceful place, full of greenery at this

The Kremlin cannot afford to ignore the provincial vote, writes Phil Reeves

time of year, her home city is not without problems, beyond the usual alcohol epidemic. Every now and then, the mafia burn down a street kiosk - the principal street outlet for vodka, beer, sweets and newspapers - for failing to pay protection money. But not long ago they murdered a businessman she knew. Ms Smolnikov carries a can of Mace in her handbag.

She lives alone in a room provided by her university, where she works in the department of international relations. As her monthly salary (\$80) is the price of dinner at a half-decent Moscow restaurant, this is all she can afford. This did not seem to bother her much. "I don't need all that much, and if I want more I can find ways of earning it." She works as a guide, a teacher, and a translator when the opportunity arises. "People have to take responsibility for themselves."

In the December elections, she didn't find time to vote. In the Vladimir region, some 180 miles east of Moscow, the Communists came first in the parliamentary election, followed by the ultra-nationalist Vladimir Zhirinovskiy's party. This time, she intends to do go to the polls, although she has yet to make up

her mind whom to support.

She regards the vodka-loving Boris Yeltsin as "unpresidential", hates his "bad, uneducated" Russian, and fears a second term would bring a return of the Brezhnev years of stagnation. She knows some smart young, progressive Communists at the university but fears that Gennady Zyuganov's Communist-nationalist bloc contains too many extremists to be a desirable option. "I would rather have my freedom than their cheap sausage."

She was, she said, mulling over her choice. So are thousands of other young people around this vast nation. As more of them are more sympathetic to Mr Yeltsin than to Mr Zyuganov, their decision could be crucial to the Kremlin, which fears the young vote won't bother to turn out.

Thus, its campaign slogan "Vote or Lose"; thus, Mr Yeltsin's promise not to send conscripts to Chechnya and his announcement of higher student grants, and, thus, the spectacle of him dancing at a rock concert this week in the Ural city of Ufa. He knows people like Ms Smolnikov count. The question is whether they think he does.



Boris Yeltsin listens to the complaints of a pensioner while on the campaign trail in Vorkuta, a mining town in north Russia. Photograph: Reuters

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Grim choice: Workers at the debt-ridden Gdansk shipyard in Poland yesterday where 3,000 voted for a 48-hour strike from today in protest at government plans to declare the yard bankrupt. Photograph: Pawel Koczynski/Reuters

US and Europe ignore Bosnia poll warning

A climate of fear and ruthless, clashing nationalism is jeopardising the chances of staging free and fair elections in Bosnia, according to an internal analysis by the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE). However, OSCE officials are expected to bow to US and European pressure and reluctantly declare that the elections should go ahead by 14 September, as stipulated by last year's Dayton peace agreement.

The OSCE was charged under the Dayton accord with preparing elections intended to provide Bosnia with multi-national, democratic institutions. However, the OSCE analysis indicates that, far from stitching Bosnia back together, the elections, if held as early as September, may consolidate the country's division into Muslim, Serb and Croat sectors. Representatives of about 40

Monitors of the elections believe the conditions for a free and fair contest will not be met, writes Tony Barber

countries will meet in Florence tomorrow to review progress in implementing the Dayton terms. The US and major European powers are expected to propose a September election, with the OSCE fixing a precise date later this month.

A summary of the OSCE study concludes that three vital conditions for free elections are not yet in place: a politically neutral environment, freedom of movement, and freedom of association. Independent media are thin on the ground, especially in the Serb and Croat areas, and it is impossible to phone between the Muslim-Croat federation and the Serb-controlled Republika Srpska. The OSCE analysis states

that in the Serb, Croat and mainly Muslim areas, civic institutions, such as police, courts and local government structures are dominated by one nationalist party—respectively, the Serbian Democratic Party (SDS), Croatian Democratic Union (HDZ) and Muslim-led Party of Democratic Action (SDA). It is especially critical of the HDZ, contending that "in Croat-controlled federation territory... the ruling HDZ has effectively ensured that the climate of fear prevents the evolution of a political alternative".

According to the study, the borders between the Muslim-Croat federation and Republika Srpska have become more open since the war ended, but most Bosnians do not enjoy freedom of movement. The Serb, Croat and Muslim sectors have different vehicle number plates, which encourages police roadblocks, and the Bosnian Serbs have sabotaged United Nations efforts to set up bus services between the Muslim-Croat and Serb zones.

The OSCE analysis estimates that only a small proportion of Bosnia's 2.6 million refugees and displaced people have returned home to areas where they would be in an ethnic minority. Non-governmental observers say this makes it unlikely fair elections can be held in areas from which large numbers of people have been expelled.

It also suggests that Bosnia's three-way partition along national lines is steadily becoming a fact on the ground. This trend has been underlined since the end of the war by the movement of tens of thousands of Serbs out of Sarajevo, which is under Muslim-led government control, and their replacement by Muslim refugees who originally lived in areas such as eastern Bosnia which are now under

complete Serb domination. OSCE officials are known to be angry with the US and European governments for insisting the elections should go ahead, in spite of the likelihood that they will be seriously flawed. Some officials were shocked when Robert Frowick, the head of the OSCE's Bosnian mission, appeared to cave in to US and European pressure by ordering his staff not to highlight negative developments in Bosnia in their reports.

Other senior international officials, such as Antonio Guterres, the Italian head of the UN war crimes tribunal, have also cast doubt on the wisdom of



Holbrooke: Better to vote now than never at all

holding elections in September. He said that if the Bosnian Serb leaders, Radovan Karadzic and General Ratko Mladic, remained at large, free elections "will not be possible in an environment polluted by war criminals".

But the US State Department spokesman, Nicholas Burns, said this week that the Dayton accords "do not say that the conditions [for the Bosnian elections] have to be pristine or Jeffersonian".

Richard Holbrooke, the former US diplomat who brokered the Dayton peace, said that if elections were not held while Nato troops were stationed in Bosnia, they might never be held at all.

New Balkan force 'should be 20,000 strong'

CHRISTOPHER BELLAMY
Defence Correspondent

The fragility of civilian reconstruction in Bosnia is adding to pressure for the continued deployment of a substantial military force next year. The peace implementation force, I-For, is due to leave in December.

Yesterday, Labour's defence spokesman, Dr David Clark, said he believed Britain, which has 11,000 troops in Bosnia, should keep about 7,500 troops there next year.

Sources in Sarajevo said that a "significant" US ground force would need to be of a similar size. The "post-I-For", or "I-For II" contingent, is likely to comprise a US, a British and probably a French brigade, totalling about 20,000 troops, about a third of the current force. Additional US troops and air support would be based in Hungary and Croatia.

The British general commanding the I-For ground forces, Lieutenant General Sir Michael Walker, said in Sarajevo yesterday that he also believed a continuing military presence would be necessary. "There is going to have to be something around to show that the international community is still determined to prevent the war from breaking out again", he said.

"So at some stage the international community is going to have to allow a debate, which I suspect is going on behind locked doors, to come out into the open".

Speaking in Washington, the US Assistant Secretary of State responsible for Bosnian policy, John Kornblum, said it was "possible, even likely", that American troops would continue to have a role after the present I-For mandate expires on 20 December. The leading participants in the force have refused to discuss publicly what will happen after that.

But the remarks by Mr Kornblum and General Walker make it clear that the force, almost certainly run by Nato, will have to stay to preserve peace because civilian reconstruction has been slower than hoped.

The comments from Sarajevo and Washington coincided with a report by the influential House of Commons Defence Committee, which also said a

substantial contingent should remain, including British and US troops.

The committee's chairman, Michael Colvin, said it had doubts about the plausibility of the elections scheduled for 14 September, because the infrastructure was in tatters, the election data was based on the 1991 census and 80 per cent of the Bosnian population, displaced by war, was now living in the wrong place.

The committee also noted that Bosnia has placed a strain on the British army's resources, and that "in the wide range of post-Cold War scenarios in which the armed forces might be needed, either a prolonged peace-keeping mission like I-For is too large a task, or the army is too small."

The House of Commons Committee report concluded that while I-For's military tasks—the separation of the warring factions and the exchange of large areas of territory—had largely been achieved, "progress on the civil side is painfully slow".

The consequences of a precipitate decision to withdraw I-For could be "very serious. It is by no means impossible that the former warring factions will return to conflict. While not calling for an open-ended commitment, we believe that the countries participating in I-For should maintain a substantial peace-keeping force in Bosnia until more significant progress has been made in implementing the Dayton peace agreement."

"The civilian side is taking much longer to build up than we had hoped", an I-For officer in Sarajevo said yesterday. "We need to be here in strength well beyond the elections and until the elected authorities have extended their control."

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If Russia turns back the clock, everyone loses

Next Sunday, for only the second time in 1,000 years, Russians will choose their leader in a free election. That, in itself, is a measure of the distance Russia has travelled in terms of political culture since the nightmarish experiment of Soviet utopianism. It ought to be a cause for celebration, for Russians and people in Western countries alike. Why, then, does a sense of foreboding hang over the presidential election?

The main reason is that to give people freedom of political choice does not guarantee that they will choose wisely. Consider France in 1848, when the introduction of universal suffrage resulted in the election as president of Louis Napoleon, who three years later launched a coup d'état, suppressed his opponents and turned himself into a dictatorial emperor. Or consider the way that Hitler forced his way to power partly by means of free elections in Weimar Germany.

In today's Russia, there is every possibility that voters will turn to Gennady Zyuganov, the Communist challenger to President Boris Yeltsin. It will be a tragedy for Russia, and a serious setback to the West, if they do. Mr Zyuganov is not like the former Communists running Hungary or Poland, whose opportunistic transformation into Western European-style social democrats required a commitment to civil liberties and a free enterprise economy.

On the contrary, Mr Zyuganov and his associates reek with nostalgia for the Soviet Union and most of its works: the centralised economy, the instinct to strike hard at domestic political opponents, the pursuit of a Russian nationalist agenda cloaked in internationalist ideals. Should he defeat Mr Yeltsin in the expected second round run-off in early July, Mr Zyuganov would probably not return Russia to its blackest authoritarian past. But the fragile democratic institutions set up in the 1990s would almost certainly not be able to take the strain of a Communist presidency, and there is a serious risk that Russia's relations with the West would descend into confrontation.

As Western governments and most Russian liberals have recognised, the dangers associated with a Zyuganov presidency are so great that a Yeltsin victory is preferable. Yet a second term in office for Mr Yeltsin would bring its own problems, in Russia and outside. Neither in the West nor at home is Mr Yeltsin recognised any longer as the courageous crusader for democracy and human rights who did more than any other person to bring down Communism in 1991.

His record has been badly tainted by the brutal and unnecessary military crackdown in Chechnya. In many people's eyes, he was also wrong to blow up the Russian parliament in 1993 and introduce a constitution that hobbled



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the legislature and placed all effective power with the presidency - that is to say, himself. Since his first election victory in June 1991, Russia has evolved under Mr Yeltsin's leadership into a strange hybrid of democracy and autocracy. It has given ordinary Russians more freedom than perhaps at any time in their history, but it has also conferred too much power on unaccountable institutions such as the armed forces and the renamed but not so reformed KGB. Lack of proper legislative oversight has enabled sinister individuals in the presidential entourage, notably Mr Yeltsin's personal bodyguard, Alexan-

der Korzhakov, to acquire excessive influence.

Mr Yeltsin's campaign tactics are also open to criticism. By forcing Russia's central bank to hand over 5 trillion roubles (£600m) for the funding of his spending promises, the president has compromised the bank's independence - a fundamental feature of Russia's economic reform programme, on which co-operation with the International Monetary Fund and other Western institutions must depend. Mr Yeltsin's team has also succeeded in slanting television coverage of the election grossly in favour of the president, to the

point where Mr Zyuganov might use Mr Yeltsin's abuse of media freedom to justify a crackdown on the Russian press and broadcasters if the Communists should win.

In his foreign policy, Mr Yeltsin has fallen short of Western expectations. He has manipulated ethnic and territorial disputes and exerted Russian economic power to regain influence over many former Soviet republics. He has strenuously resisted Nato's enlargement, without showing much sensitivity to the craving for security that dominates the attitudes of central and eastern European countries.

Still, matters would probably be worse under Mr Zyuganov. The difficult but often constructive relationship that the West has with Mr Yeltsin's Russia would turn into something more tense with Mr Zyuganov in the Kremlin. The semi-democratic, semi-authoritarian Yeltsin-led state would lose many of its democratic features under a Zyuganov presidency.

However, if the West is right to hope for a Yeltsin victory, it must also hope that there will be more progress during Mr Yeltsin's second term towards consolidating democratic institutions and making Russia a law-based state. Having suffered centuries of autocratic rule and 70 years of violence and intolerance under Communism, Russia cannot be expected to turn into a model democracy overnight. But Mr Yeltsin has,

over the past three years, done as much to hinder his country's democratic development as he has done to promote it. If he wins a second term, he must use it to consolidate and extend democracy. The cause of freedom in Russia matters profoundly to all of us outside its borders, as well as within; if Russia fails, following this election, to strengthen and improve its nascent democracy, we will all suffer the consequences.

Paddy for PM?

Paddy Ashdown has been fantasising (in the nicest possible way) about hung parliaments. What might happen if (joy of joys, so far as Paddy is concerned) Tony Blair or John Major have to sidle sulkily up alongside the Lib Dems and solicit their coalition support?

Paddy's answer, in our interview with him today, is rather curious: why, he wonders, should the Queen get to choose the Prime Minister? Why not get the House of Commons to choose the new PM, on (presumably) a free vote?

Well, just think for a minute, Paddy. If the Commons is left to choose between Mr Major, Mr Blair and yours truly, it's a fair bet yours truly won't get a look in. But if the Queen had a free choice - well, now, she just might decide to favour a member of the officer class, mightn't she?

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Teachers are taught the wrong things

Sir: It was with little surprise that I read that trainee teachers have lower A-level grades than any other group of university students (10 June). Ten years ago, having completed a first and higher degree at university, I took a one-year postgraduate primary teaching course at a college of higher education.

The warning signs were there at interview: the course director asked why someone like me (ie with a higher degree) wanted to teach primary age children. The course was extremely disappointing: intellectually undemanding, lacking in academic rigour and failing to provide really high-quality guidance in the complex skills of teaching. Too much time was spent playing with maths equipment, singing nursery rhymes and stapling pieces of paper neatly to walls and not enough on the really important things, such as how to address a class firmly and clearly, teach basic reading skills or deal with a disruptive child.

If this is what a one-year postgraduate course delivers then is it any wonder that anyone with high A-level grades looking for a challenging degree course is going to steer clear of a four-year BEd, the course that provides two-thirds of primary school teachers?

I suppose the real problem is that primary education is fundamentally regarded as glorified childminding, a nice little job for a woman earning a second income, rather than something which requires a lively, intelligent mind and a high level of organisational and management skills.

PENNY McGEE
Evercreech, Somerset

Sir: In your article on teacher training you refer to "popular subjects such as English, history and psychology." How is it that geography always seems to get missed out of these not infrequent lists?

Last year, 1995, at GCSE level geography ranked seventh in the subject list of entrants with 295,229 candidates, 11.3 per cent up on 1994. History was next with 239,524, an increase of 5.32 per cent. In 1995 there was an increase of 10.3 per cent so geography is more than holding its own.

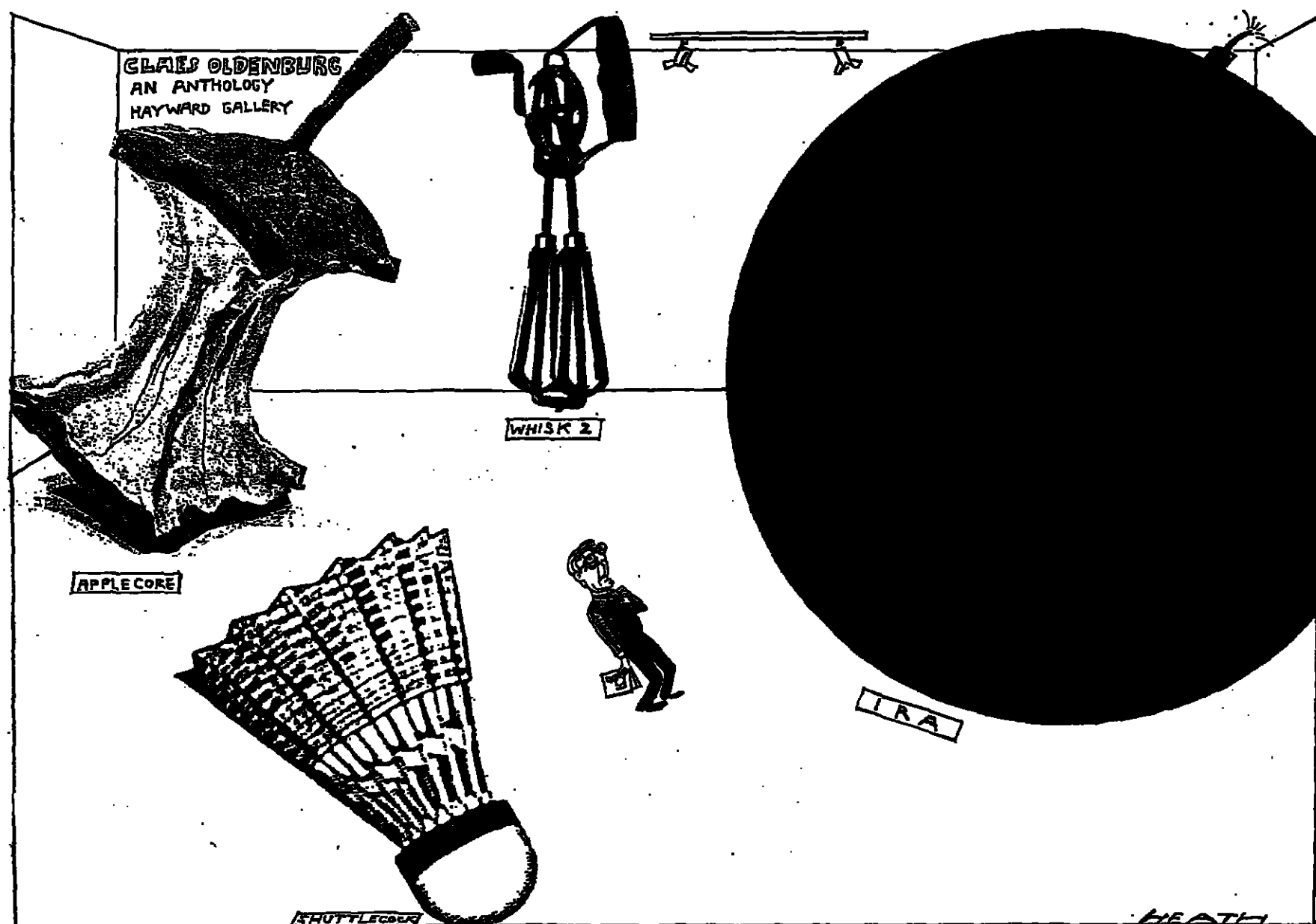
At A-level, geography had 43,426 entrants and ranked fifth as against history with 42,694 in sixth place.

Sterile statistics do not make great headlines but there does seem to be a bit of a blind spot about modern geography, which has long left the capes, bays and gazetteer attitudes behind. Geography, even at school level, has entered the world of applied studies in landscape management, marketing, tourism, transport systems, concept mapping, IT and urban development and planning.

GEORGEY SHERLOCK
The Geographical Association
Amersham, Buckinghamshire

Sir: I am delighted by the younger generation and their choice of degree courses (report, 10 June). The "market" implemented by students shows a clear preference for traditional undergraduate degree subjects rather than those favoured by those who govern us.

The prestige among young persons of both humanities and social sciences is especially encouraging. No doubt the present government, with its propensity to



ignore market signals when it suits, will continue to restrict growth in these disciplines through the system of student number funding.

JM OLIVER
London EC2

Sir: I was interested in your headline "Teaching trainees have worst A-levels" (10 June). It is a curious contradiction that we have a prime minister who is held up as an example of the meritocratic nature of our society precisely because he does not have a distinguished academic background. Can the Government please make up its mind which it regards as the most desirable?

JOHN CARTER
E-mail: sojpd@usa.bris.ac.uk

Sir: The Prime Minister seeks to impose "a grammar school in every town". An inspiring slogan. More inspiring than "four secondary moderns in every town", and yet the policy is one and the same.

SIMON BRADLEY
London SE1

Myths about the Germans

Sir: The opinion poll referred to in Will Bennett's article "Children vote Germany as 'most boring'" (10 June) shows a high level of ignorance of one of the most important states within the EU. To suggest that Germany is the most boring European state is a travesty of the truth.

Germany is, and always has been, a most stimulating European state but its historical and contemporary achievements have been overshadowed by constant

reference to the Nazi period. As someone who trained as a teacher of history in Scotland I found that the history curriculum was often heavily weighted against Germany, in that we taught children that the Germans were a warlike people while little or no reference was made to Germany's economic or cultural achievements.

Given the findings of the poll perhaps we should now be reviewing the school curriculum and reducing the amount of unintentional anti-German material taught to children. We should also give greater thought to the portrayal of Germany on television in this country.

Recent anti-European outpourings from British politicians, a band of recognised "Little Englanders", have had a definite anti-German tinge and this feeds into the minds of the children of this country.

The public impression of the Germans would seem to cling to apocryphal images of humourless Teutons who steal the best sunloungers at the swimming pool. This is a stereotype that requires urgent amelioration. Given the influence of Germany within the EU we can afford neither to ignore nor offend Germany.

Much has to be done in this country to improve the image of the Germans and of Germany. If our children hold such views of one of our closest allies and friends, what do their parents think?

STUART PHILIP
Department of Politics and International Relations
University of Aberdeen

Moral issues even in private

Sir: Peter Jay - with such certainty - identifies a moral boundary: consenting people's private behaviour cannot raise moral issues (Letters 10 June). Well, that immediately rules out any moral quibbles about abortion; and if we get together - in private - and torture the pet goat, why, that's no moral issue at all. Oops, silly me, perhaps my educational deficiency is coming out; I must take as read - I hope - that Jay's morally neutral behaviour excludes embracing animal suffering.

Still, if we go together - in private - and one of us, aged 16, in depression, consents to the rest killing her, or injecting addictive drugs, that raises no moral issue. Ah, wrong again, I trust (my moral illiteracy showing) for the Jay dictum must surely accept explanatory expansion over quite what counts as consent.

Reasoned consent in no doubt, animals excluded, a couple privately wallow in extramarital carnal delights, safely under Jay's moral neutrality assurance. Oops again! Even if spouses remain unaware of partners' infidelity, are we sure no harm is done, no moral issues raised?

The moral is not that private consensual assisted death, adultery, abortion and so on are never morally justified, but that they raise moral issues. Beware moral simplicities - maybe even this one.

PETER CAVE
London EC1

Investment in electricity

Sir: Diane Coyle's report (5 June) fails to recognise that capital investment by the privatised electricity companies is now 40 per cent higher compared with the five years prior to privatisation.

Capital investment has become more efficient and responsive to need. Since 1990 the industry has spent almost £16bn on improving the infrastructure and supply service. This is £4.5bn more than in the previous five years. In addition is the contribution from the independent generating companies. Nine major power stations have been developed since 1990 at a cost approaching £3bn with an additional two to be commissioned by the end of 1996 costing £560m.

The expenditure on Sizewell B and the creation of cleaner, combined-cycle gas-turbine power stations, and the associated transmission network, accounted for a peak in investment spending between 1991 and 1993. At the same time, customer service levels have improved while prices have fallen. The total saving on bills between 1992 and 1995 amounts to £2.5bn.

The electricity companies have not broken self-off "pledges". The government assurance was that companies would be able to spend more on improving their services to customers. This the electricity industry has certainly achieved.

PHILIP DAUBENEY
Chief Executive
The Electricity Association
London SW1

Flying in the face of logic

Sir: I suppose the thoughts that can be inspired by watching a fly buzzing around a room depend on the intellectual powers of the observer (letter, 7 June). A certain M Descartes, while musing on the movements of such a fly, realised that its position in space could be uniquely determined at any time by reference to three mutually perpendicular lines emanating from any corner of the room, and so invented cartesian co-ordinates.

DAVID MILLER
Norwich

Sir: The energy expended by the fly is relative to its size and weight. In the five minutes Mr Webster has wasted watching it he might have run a mile or mown a small lawn. Ever seen a fly mowing a lawn?

C T ERIKSEN
Worthing, West Sussex

Wrong numbers

Sir: One thing that grates with me is your lottery numbers column each Wednesday. The success of the lottery is, to a large part, due to the low level of numeracy in this country combined with the failure of people to understand fully the concept of randomness.

A random number is one that is not predictable. Previous numbers have absolutely no effect on future numbers. Your column promotes the opposite view. A serious newspaper should be informing and educating its readers not perpetuating myths.

PAUL BZOWSKI
Email: paul@uunet.uu.net

Parallel currency for Europe

Sir: In your leading article on "Britain and Europe" (3 June) you say that "the single currency cannot be run without a single European economic policy alongside it. Monetary policy and fiscal policy cannot be disentangled."

With the current concept of a single Euro-currency as the only currency that would be legal tender in any EU member state your view is hard to challenge and has drawn support in your letters pages - although it seems mainly from Labour MPs who perhaps see preserving all the prerogatives of state spending as more central to their political philosophy.

If we accept this concern over who has control of national fiscal policies whilst at the same time believing that there would be some virtues in a common currency as would most European businessmen who operate in more than one member state) perhaps the pro-Europeans should work up a proposal for a parallel common currency.

Such a parallel currency would have a status not dissimilar to gold in previous centuries as being an elective medium of trade. It would need to be freely exchangeable against all major EU and EU trading partner currencies. With echoes of some of the practices of foreign companies coping with hyperinflation in South America, businesses would be free to choose local or common currency for their pricing, payroll, dividends, bank deposits and the presentation of their accounts. Individuals would be able to have local and/or common currency bank accounts.

A parallel common currency sidesteps a sterile win/lose debate and has the advantage of increasing the democratic choices available to the peoples of the EU. It cannot be a bad thing if, at least in one aspect of our lives, our politicians will have to bid for our allegiance not once every five years, but every day.

JOHN BERRIMAN
Reading, Berkshire

Bestseller

Sir: I read Jack O'Sullivan's "Irving and Sereny go to war" (6 June) and I have to take issue with David Irving's comment, "I was told the shop wouldn't be taking it because Gitta Sereny's book on Albert Speer did so badly, which surprised me because I thought it had done well."

I can put on record that *Albert Speer, His Battle with Truth* was a bestseller in every market we published it, both nationally and internationally. Its success has encouraged Waterstone's to pick up our new paperback of it as their Book of the Month for August. This is the premier slot for any book published in that time. This adds to the hard-cover success of this internationally acclaimed work.

PETER STRAUS
Editor-in-Chief
Macmillan Publishers Ltd
London SW1

Forged writing

Sir: Ken Welsby has missed the main reason why joined-up writing is still taught in schools (Letters, 6 June). Most personal financial transactions still require signatures. Block writing is very easy to copy, while every person does joined up writing in a different style. That is why signatures are so hard to forge.

GAVIN BOOTH
St Saviour, Jersey

analysis



Jimmy's fixers: Sir James (centre) with (left, from the top) Jonathan Aitken MP, Lord Rees-Mogg and Sir David Frost; and (right, from the top) the gossip columnist Taki, Bill Cash MP and the Marchioness of Worcester, the society hostess



Inside the court of Sir James

The Anglo-French billionaire Sir James Goldsmith is an outsider with ways of exerting influence on the British Establishment. **John Rentoul** looks at his high-powered circle of friends

Sir James Goldsmith has the Conservative Party on the run. He was never a member of the Establishment, but he has invaded it by force of will and overwhelming wealth, and is now dictating terms to the oldest political party in the world.

The story of how this Anglo-French tax exile has managed to push his way into public life reveals much about the anatomy of power in Britain.

The first explanation, most obviously, is money. For a man who is said to have made £800m in one deal, the sort of sums spent on politics in Britain hardly ring his register. He has let it be known that he is prepared to spend £20m on his single-issue campaign for a referendum on Europe between now and the general election. That puts the Referendum Party, of which he is founder, leader and ideologist, on the same sort of footing as the Tory and Labour parties – and heavily outpacing the Liberal Democrats.

When it is suggested that Sir James's threat to stand candidates against Tory MPs is not serious, Jeffrey Archer, the

Tory peer and former deputy party chairman, warns his friends: "James Goldsmith is a billionaire and he doesn't give a damn."

Sir James has also found a big issue: Europe. The reasons why he is bothered about Europe are not the usual ones, and his train of logic is sometimes difficult to follow. The root of his obsession is his concern about the effects of global capitalism.

As a supremely successful global capitalist himself, Sir James knows what he is talking about. It might be said that he is so keen to preserve national identity that he has two of them: French and British. He certainly has little in common with the yeoman English patriots who form the backbone of Bill Cash's troops on the Tory backbenches. Sir James has two houses in Britain, one in Paris and a hacienda in Mexico. He is a member of the European Parliament for a French constituency and is father-in-law to Imran Khan, who may or may not want to be prime minister of Pakistan.

Sir James is animated by the logic of the world turning into a single economic system in which the peoples of Western

Europe will find themselves competing with the very lowest-wage countries. And his answer to that means dismantling the European Union and creating a different kind of trading block, protected from competition in world markets.

The first part of that programme is enough to excite the Eurosceptics, and Sir James is canny enough to focus on one thing at a time – a referendum on the terms of Britain's mem-

The train of his logic is sometimes difficult to follow

bership of the EU is an issue that can unite the largest coalition of support and cause maximum creative chaos in British politics.

The third form of leverage Sir James has on the Tory Party is social. He is well-connected with the Thatcherite wing. He is friends with the buccaneering capitalists who backed Margaret Thatcher, because they

thought she understood the free market and because she was not the Tory establishment.

In the Seventies, Goldsmith, along with Lord Hanson, Gordon White and Jim Slater, stalked the City, making money, going to the same clubs and being seen with the same glamorous women.

Most of his friends are outsiders in some way, but they all have money. Jacob Rothschild and Mark Weinburg are members of the City establishment, although Kerry Packer, the Australian former media magnate, and John Aspinall, the zoologist and casino owner, are flamboyant mavericks.

"You could imagine the plans for the Referendum Party being hatched in the back room of Aspinall's casino," says one observer. It is the sort of grand and bizarre scheme that rich men would enjoy plotting.

Sir James Goldsmith's salon reflects his varied interests and influences. A key figure is the Marchioness of Worcester, a former actress and model who has elevated green talking-shops from squats and coffee bars to the grounds of her vast Gloucestershire estate. Known in environmental circles as plain Tracy Worcester, the Marchioness has long been a close friend of Sir James.

At her London townhouse, Cabinet ministers and Whitehall mandarins have tea with green activists. Guests have included Sir James and his brother Teddy, along with William Waldegrave and Brian Mawhinney, Charles Secret, of Friends of the Earth, and Sir Crispin Tickell, former ambassador to the UN and chairman of Earthwatch Europe.

Prior to the Referendum Party, Sir James was a passionate ecologist. His financial assistance to the Ecological Foundation kept it afloat in the early Seventies and helped Teddy to found the *Ecologist Magazine*. In 1976, he was awarded a knighthood for

"services to export and ecology".

One of his closest friends is John Aspinall. The pair met in 1949 while Aspinall was at Oxford. Later, they became partners in the Aspinall gaming clubs, which help to pay the £4m a year cost of running Aspinall's zoos in Kent.

Geoffrey Wansell, Goldsmith's biographer, recalls that Aspinall was a flamboyant Oxford undergraduate, who organised gambling parties.

"One of the regular players at Aspinall's tables was Teddy Goldsmith, and it was only to be expected that he would bring along his younger brother Jimmy," he recalls. Then aged 16, young Jimmy made an impression on the table of gamblers by losing almost £4,000, says Wansell.

Central to Goldsmith's circle of influence is his personal spin doctor, Patrick Robertson. At the age of 27, the founder of the ill-fated Bruges Group has already made a name for himself in right-wing circles. He has been credited with dreaming up the Referendum Party, a role he denies. "I do not work for the Referendum Party, but for Sir James Goldsmith personally," he said yesterday.

Other central figures in the Referendum Party include Judith Duckworth, a former Conservative Party agent who has recently been advising the New Democratic Party in Romania. Cheque-signing is the prerogative of Charles Filmer, a director of one of Goldsmith's companies and of the Referendum Party Ltd. Another great friend is Jacob Rothschild, the investment banker who also chairs the National Heritage Memorial Fund.

In 1984, Rothschild, Goldsmith and the Australian tycoon Kerry Packer formed a consortium to attempt to take over the St Regis Corporation, remaining close confidants ever since. Rothschild has said of Goldsmith: "Jimmy is com-

pletely international... People aren't used to dealing with someone who is as independent and outspoken as he is. He doesn't compromise, he doesn't suck up, he isn't accommodating to the second-rate, and he doesn't like people who are hide-bound, or do nothing of interest."

And then he has access to the next part of the "amplification machine" – the media. He is on close personal terms with

He is on close personal terms with important media figures

important media figures, especially – but not exclusively – in the Euro-sceptic right-wing press. There is a *Now* magazine diaspora of journalists who worked on Goldsmith's failed glossy right-wing weekly during its brief life in the early Eighties, including Frank Johnson, now editor of the *Spectator*.

Sir James's party invitation lists include Conrad Black, proprietor of the *Telegraph*, Nigel Dempster, who used to live close to his Richmond mansion, and William Rees-Mogg, the former editor of the *Times*.

Lord Rees-Mogg once wrote admiringly: "Over the years I have become an experienced observer of charisma; the best indicator is the way in which the public approaches the candidate... People were coming up to Jimmy Goldsmith in just this way. It was like observing Margaret Thatcher at a Conservative Party conference, or Ronald Reagan in the Republican primaries of 1980."

Sir David Frost's status as a member of the inner circle was also confirmed when he joined Sir James at his palatial Mexico home for a holiday over Easter just before Sir James

appeared on his programme.

The honour of an invitation to Mexico has also been extended to Sir Charles Powell, Margaret Thatcher's political secretary. Sir Charles and his wife, Lady Carla, attended both of Sir James's recent big social events – the party at the Ritz two years ago to celebrate his election as a Euro-MP and his wife's 60th birthday, also attended by the Princess of Wales, and the wedding of his daughter, Gemima, Diana's friend.

Although Sir James holds unconventional economic views – he is closer to fellow billionaire-politician Ross Perot in opposing free trade and advocating protection – his social connections with right-wing business people intersect with the Thatcherite anti-Europeanism.

Sir James's social connections with right-wing Tories were advertised by his invitation to the gracious Georgian home of the former Cabinet minister Jonathan Aitken in Lord North Street on Monday night.

Sir James apparently only made one comment in the debate on a presentation by Norman Lamont, the former Chancellor, on the question of whether Britain should pull out of the EU. But he was there, in a private discussion group which included Government ministers.

The Goldsmith-Thatcherite network was pulled together in the European Foundation, the anti-Maastricht think-tank chaired by Bill Cash and supported by "substantial" donations from Sir James. On its advisory board sit Lord McAlpine, the former Tory treasurer who regards Baroness Thatcher as so betrayed that the party might benefit from a spell in opposition; Robin Harris, of Lady Thatcher's policy unit and drafter of her memoirs; and Iain Duncan-Smith, a Euro-sceptic MP close to John Redwood.

The final reason why Sir James has such a hold on the Tory party is obvious – that the Government is massively unpopular. MPs may say they do not believe opinion polls, but you can be sure that the 175 who would lose their seats on present poll ratings are worried.

They take very seriously anything that could reduce their vote at the general election, and Sir James's threat to stand candidates against any MP who is not committed to his idea of a referendum – not just one on a single European currency – is one of the few things they could do something about.

Sir James insists that his initiative is neither left-wing nor right-wing, and it is true that some of his analysis of the evils of globalisation chimes better with the Labour Party's themes. But Labour MPs and candidates do not have to pay attention: they are winning. And besides, the Euro-sceptic theme is more likely to play with disillusioned Tory voters than old-style Labour anti-market-keepers. Sir James's candidates only need to win 1.5 per cent of the vote to deprive the Tories of 12 seats.

Sir James may only be playing at politics, but he has the money, the issue and the connections to be a serious player. Some regard his views as dangerous. He certainly lacks neither opinions nor the language in which to express them. In his book *The Trap* he warned of the consequences of global free trade causing social divisions "deeper than anything ever envisaged by Marx". More recently he described the Government's signing of the Maastricht treaty as "tantamount to treason".

Others take a different view. One Tory MP said yesterday: "He pricks our consciences and shows our intellectual inadequacy."

Additional research by Ros Wynne-Jones.

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Hello. People seem very unclear about what Mr John Bird's new reforms at the BBC mean, writes Ralph Thredwell, the BBC's new Deputy Controller of Logic, so let me try to explain very simply.

First, let me clear up one misunderstanding. John Bird is not the same person as John Bird! John Bird is the Director-General of the BBC and John Bird is a small, plump actor who looks nothing like him at all! (You may be thinking of John Fortune, John Bird's partner, a tall, thin man with a convincing line in plausible gobbledygook. He might well be mistaken for John Bird.)

Right. Now, what are we trying to do with these reforms? Well, basically, we are continuing the market-driven reforms that we have already initiated. Now, what are the market-driven reforms we have already initiated and which we are hoping to continue with these

new reforms? Well, our policy under this new British revolution has been to locate our areas of excellence and then to sell them off. This means that wherever we have found something or someone that works really well, we have closed it down or sold it off so that we can hire them or it back privately at much greater expense.

One example might be the Christchurch studio in Bristol, which we had expensively restored and equipped as one of the finest drama radio studios anywhere in the world. Once we had got it up and running, we transferred the drama department to Birmingham and closed Christchurch down. Actions like this were repeated all over the country. People were put in charge of whole regions whose sole function and sole talent was to fire people, make them go independent and hire themselves back to the BBC.

One name we thought of



Miles Kington

for this was "producer choice". This was a way of saying that the preferred choice was no longer available and the producer would have to think of something else.

In the short term this is, of course, more expensive. But in the long term it is more expensive, too. Thus we see a symmetry in our plans and we also can justify asking for more money. This is especially necessary ever since we found that Radio 4 was overspent by millions of pounds. And do you know why this was? It was because they for-

got at Radio 4 to budget for all the stuff going out on Long Wave! So suddenly they had a shortfall of millions of pounds! I don't know why we keep saying that the BBC is saving money under John Bird when we are hemorrhaging this sort of cash!

I am not sure Ralph is explaining himself very well, writes Oscar Dunning the BBC's new head of Apologia Presentation. What he meant to say, I am sure, is that in the new age ushered in by digital broadcasting, we have to move with the times and streamline things. That means merging radio and TV. That means merging News and Current Affairs and Light Entertainment. That means ending up with one vast department called TV and Radio News and Comedy, run by Matthew Bannister, which will put out all the programmes.

We are already moving in this direction. Have I Got News For You? is newsy AND

funny, while *Newsnight* with Jeremy Paxman has high entertainment value and little news.

Now, I know that people have got their doubts about the merging of radio and TV. They say that radio and TV are two very different animals, with different methods. They say that Radio 4 is streets ahead of BBC 2. I have very great respect for this view. That is why we are ignoring it with such a show of crocodile tears. The plain fact is that radio comes up with all the good ideas that later get turned into TV programmes, so by merging them we can get those ideas sooner!

I don't think Oscar is quite sticking to the market-driven agenda, writes Veronica Longstaff, the BBC's new Head of Management and Internal Memoes, so let me put it a little differently. Programmes are all very well in their own way, but... The debate continues...

صبرنا من الامم

the commentators

Medical advances have reduced the numbers of disabled children. But when they fail, should the NHS pay up?

Litigation is the wrong medicine

Christina O'Sullivan has a three-year-old son with spina bifida. Like a rapidly growing number of people she is suing the NHS for what used to be regarded as an accident of nature. She has just filed a suit accusing her hospital, Northwick Park in London, of failing to detect his abnormality in an ultrasound test during her pregnancy. Her son will be handicapped for life and unable to walk.

This raises a great many difficult issues. One response has been an objection to her apparently contradictory state of mind. She says she loves him dearly but "would rather have had an abortion than see him the way he is". A number of observers, especially those who are against abortion and some disabled-rights activists, protest that you cannot both love and value a person and wish they had never been born. They talk in terms of "genocide" of the less than perfect.

But Christina's case rests on the time when she was given the ultrasound test and her son did not exist as a person to be loved, only as a potential person. At that stage, she says, had she been faced with the agonising news, she would have made the decision to abort – but that does not devalue her protective love for her child now he is born.

Most mothers confronted with news that their baby will be severely

abnormal choose to have it aborted. Most mothers faced with the unexpected birth of a handicapped child love it as much as any other. However, the chance to know whether a foetus may be badly disabled is one of the greatest blessings of modern medicine. After all, the knowledge is optional – women can choose not to know.

The official figures tell the story: in 1982, 1,016 babies were born with severe abnormalities of the central nervous system: spina bifida, anencephaly, or hydrocephalus. That represented 16.1 per 10,000 births. Ten years later, the number of babies born with these devastating conditions had dropped to one quarter of that number, just 4.6 per 10,000 births, mainly because screening gave women the chance to choose abortion.

But all too quickly modern miracles, such as ante-natal screening, turn into "rights" and patients who fail to get as much benefit out of them as they feel they should turn litigious. Where once Christina O'Sullivan would have accepted her fate as horrible bad luck, now she has found someone to blame. The

hospital admits that her son's condition could have been diagnosed from the ultrasound test she had, but it was not detected. She feels entitled to sue Northwick Park because she is a single mother who needs the money to care for him.

She is not the first – there have been a clutch of such cases. The hospital's lawyers say that most have failed, though some parents have won substantial damages. Legally these cases turn on an odd point of law. If a child has cerebral palsy because of the negligence of a doctor's clumsy delivery at the birth, then the child can sue for its pain, suffering and loss of amenity. But in screening cases, the child cannot sue because it cannot argue in court that it should never have been born. Instead, its parents sue for the cost of bringing up the child, which will be considerably less than the huge sums sometimes paid out for cerebral palsy caused by negligence.

The relatively new art of ante-natal testing has given rise to a plethora of litigation. Perversely, the more expert the doctors become and the better they become at detecting abnormalities, the more



POLLY TOYNEE

The more expert the doctors become, the more vulnerable they are to lawsuits

vulnerable they are to law suits when they fail – although nearly every medical test will give some false negative or false positive results.

Take Carol Anderson, for example. She claims she was told after an ultrasound scan that her child had severe water on the brain, or hydrocephaly. "When I was 17 weeks pregnant, they strongly advised me

to terminate," she says. "But I wouldn't. I am a Catholic and I am against abortion. I went through my pregnancy believing I was carrying a badly handicapped baby, but when she was born she was perfect. If I had listened to what they said, she wouldn't be here now." So she started proceedings against the hospital. What for? "For the stress I suffered," she says.

Then there are the tragic cases of women told they are carrying a handicapped child, who go through with the abortion only to find that the child was, in fact, healthy. A high-profile case last month involved a baby who lived for 45 minutes after it was aborted following tests indicating it was abnormal. The pathologist told the coroner that the child was normal, so recorded a new verdict: death by legal termination.

In another case, Karen and Mark Spillwell are suing the Princess Anne Hospital in Southampton for advising them to abort a foetus they now believe would have turned out to be healthy. (The hospital, as is often the case, claims the baby would have been born severely abnormal.) Some people will be

more horrified by the idea of aborting a healthy child, while others will regard having an unwanted handicapped child as far worse. Either way, getting the wrong answer causes terrible grief. However, the total sum of suffering was far worse in the days before ultrasound was invented.

So how accurate are these ante-natal screening programmes? Dr Henry Irving, president of the British Medical Ultrasound Society, gives the rather startling reply that no one knows; there are no national figures. Various surveys have been carried out by some regions on their own results, but there is no national benchmark for accuracy. Nor is there any nationally agreed method of testing – some areas still use AFP blood tests, others only use ultrasound. Some hospitals have excellent new equipment, while others do not.

Doctors, says Dr Irving, will always tell patients what they consider the risk of abnormality to be: "They may say they think that there is a 50-50 chance, or a virtually 100 per cent chance, but they will base it on their own local experience,

using their own equipment, not on any national rating." This may come as something of a shock to those who imagine they are part of a national screening system.

But the most difficult aspect of Christina O'Sullivan's case concerns her attitude towards the NHS. Increasingly patients seek someone to blame, knowing they may win substantial damages, dazed by headlines about big pay-outs – though only 12 per cent of cases actually succeed. Even so, the NHS is paying out vast, escalating sums – and ambulance-chasing lawyers are making millions out of legal-aid cases, touring for business with posters in hospital emergency rooms asking: "Do you have a claim?"

In the lottery of life, some patients can clean up, and others can't. The law multiplies nature's own injustice. The family of a child suffering from cerebral palsy may do very well, while a child living next door with identical needs but no one to blame may get nothing. As a way of paying state money to care for disabled children, it makes no sense.

If Christina O'Sullivan gets a large sum, what general good does that serve? The law may keep the NHS on its toes, but the culture of litigation drains its resources, makes doctors practice defensive medicine and turns every medical advancement into a new chance to sue.

The world's favourite cartel

An alliance between British Airways and American Airlines would increase prices and reduce services, says Richard Branson

For the past 16 years Britain and the United States have professed to want to "liberate" airline travel around the world, and across the Atlantic in particular. After the demise of Laker Airlines in 1982 – at the hands of a cartel led by British Airways and with the connivance of American and European carriers – along came Virgin. Since 1984 we have fought tirelessly to get into every market across the Atlantic and offer the consumer a better deal. The result? Fares on all the routes on which we fly are lower and the quality of service has risen, often dramatically.

It is hard to believe that any national government would want to throw all that away. Yet all this is at risk. Both the UK and US governments are considering allowing the world's two most powerful airlines to forge an alliance that would give them a 100 per cent market share on some routes – and an average 60 per cent on all UK/US routes. In no other industry in the capitalist world would the creation of such a monopolistic alliance be tolerated.

What will the result be? Fares will rise and the quality of service for passengers will fall. Instead of "open skies" – the professed policy on both sides of the Atlantic – the two governments will have presided over the creation of the Aeroflot of the capitalist West. Of course, any proposed alliance between BA and American Airlines will require anti-trust immunity from the US authorities. This would be the American equivalent of banning the Monopolies and Mergers Commission from investigating the activities of the two companies. As the MMC is already barred from looking into BA (British airlines and sugar beet production are the only two industries so exempt) this would mean that the most powerful cartel in aviation history would be given carte blanche to behave as it wants in the marketplace.

The hypocrisy of it all will not be lost on those recalling the words of Robert Ayling, BA's chief executive, as he outlined his objections – yes, objections – to plans by Lufthansa and United Airlines for a similar sharing arrangement in March. "What Lufthansa want to do is to reduce the level of competition by relaxing the

anti-trust laws," he said. Adding to the irony of his objection is that Lufthansa and United flew less than 14 per cent of all scheduled flights between the whole of Europe and the US, whereas BA and AA, who now propose a far more extensive link-up, last year flew more than 60 per cent of all British flights and 30 per cent of all European flights to America.

The nub of the deal between the two airlines is what the industry calls "code-sharing". This is where one operator can sell tickets on another's flights, allowing an airline to sell tickets on routes on which it does not operate. This practice has been condemned as "profoundly anti-competitive". By whom? Robert Crandall, American's chairman, who claims that they none the less have to adopt the practice to stave off rivals.

It beggars belief that any immunity for these two monopolists could possibly be considered. But we hear that the Aeroflot Mark 2 is going to be "open skies to Heathrow", in other words, letting all US carriers into this busiest of airports. But anyone who knows how Heathrow works knows that despite this quid pro quo the BA/AA duopoly will still control most of the slots for take-offs and landings. "Open skies" then becomes just an empty slogan.

The brutal and sad fact is that trying to get into Heathrow – as Virgin knows to its cost – means a wearying wait. It was in 1992 that we first applied for slots to Johannesburg. Four years later, we have just been awarded three openings for the coming winter. And Virgin has also applied for many other routes (including the Heathrow to Chicago route, where BA and AA have a 94 per cent share) only to be rejected. Not only is Heathrow full, but it also operates a system of "grandfather" rights, where those that were first in enjoy the greatest access irrespective of their merit.

The market power of the duopolists will be enormous. They will control the crucial feeder services of almost every transatlantic route and thus be able to inflict unfair influence on consumer choice by manipulating commissions paid to travel agents. British Airways and American Airlines already



Close formation: the two most powerful airlines want to form an alliance, but it could create a capitalist version of an Aeroflot-style state monopoly

enjoy huge monopolistic advantages; this deal will just increase those advantages at the cost of real and meaningful competition.

The implications of the deal are so vast they must be subject to a wide-ranging public debate. The competition authorities (such as they exist) and the Civil Aviation Authority should be called on to examine the alliance in detail and publish their findings. Above all, the criterion for judging whether or not to approve the deal should be solely what is best for the travelling public, not the shareholders of these two giants.

It is well known that Virgin and BA have had strong differences in the past, to put it mildly. But that is not what is at stake here. This is not sour grapes; it is not about Virgin. The issue is the competitive future of air travel. If nothing is done,

if this unholy alliance is allowed, then there will not be more competition, there will be lower fares. Instead, we will see a return to the grim old days of cartels and monopolies: what the past chairman of the CAA Christopher Chataway described as the "culture of collusion".

Airlines such as British Airways did not achieve what they have by providing low fares and high-quality services. Just remember how awful they used to be until forced to compete! If the public had woken up to hear that BA and Virgin had merged, they would probably be pretty outraged. This deal is even worse.

So if any consumers hearing the news of yesterday's deal are tempted to crack open the champagne, my advice is: don't. This return to the aviation Dark Ages is nothing to celebrate.

Please Sir, can you spare a dime?

Our children are being taught to count with American software, but Nicholas Tucker sees no cause for alarm

Forget about Europe for a moment. The perennial establishment anxiety about undue American influence on British culture is back in the news. The spokesman this time is Dr Nick Tate, head of the School Curriculum and Assessment Authority. The chief focus of his worry is the flood of American software into schools, where pupils are now expected to practise mathematics by working in dollars, dimes and cents and take English tests sprinkled with spellings such as color, gray and mom.

Schools use American software because we do not have the market or capital to develop our own educational materials on anything like the same scale. Some spilling over of Americanisms is therefore inevitable, just as it has always been in our American-dominated film world. But despite dire warnings in the past and the brief existence of the mid-Atlantic accent in the late 1940s, Britain still remains very much itself. There may be more hamburgers and colas on sale than before, but we still walk on pavements (not sidewalks), go to the cinema (not the movies) and take out the rubbish (not the garbage) at night.

American influences can also go as well as come. The Cambridge pundit FR Leavis used to warn his students against "crockers" and the noxious effects of listening to what he would always insist on calling "hoogie-woogie"

long after such terms had become museum pieces. He would never have guessed that British pop music would one day influence what American teenagers listened to, although he would certainly have hated what we produce here just as much.

Other Cassandra voices sounding off against American domination have followed different agendas. The Comic Campaign Council in the 1950s that worked successfully to ban American horror comics was mostly made up of active Communist Party members – a fact unknown all that time to its innocent chairman George Pumfrey, a Sussex headmaster. Bashing America has long been an acceptable tactic for the far left, always ready to discredit the home of rampant capitalism whenever the chance arose. They were often joined in this endeavour by members of the extreme right, typified by Evelyn Waugh, who on hearing the views of a distinguished literary critic merely replied that since the gentleman concerned was also an American there was consequently no need to take his opinion seriously.

The driving force here was quite different: a vision of feudal Britain where any transatlantic term or twang was an

uncomfortable reminder that time had moved on with the world – and Britain's former place in it was diminished. How else can one explain the occasional case of irrational fury over odd Americanisms in the language, so brilliantly parodied by Michael Frayn writing in the guise of Lord Disgusted in 1963. "Every time I hear the word

British culture has always been a hotch-potch, borrowing from abroad when the mood arises

'commuter' I can see a red haze of rage in front of my eyes. It is an entirely unnecessary outrage, since there is a perfectly good English expression: 'A man who lives in one place and works in another, and who travels back and forth between the two each day.' There is simply no need for a new word."

A more serious worry exists over the future of British children's literature.

Almost all children's authors over here produce books with at least half an eye on the American market, our own – badly damaged by government cuts to schools and libraries – is no longer able to support a thriving children's literature industry by itself. The type of changes that arise are still fairly minimal: a case of changing a few names around and avoiding issues American publishers tend to be more sensitive about than are our own publishers. But should all children's books start disappearing in favour of videos, and the multi-media, there would indeed be a problem.

A country and culture that cannot recognise itself in its own stories risks becoming invisible. *Pocahontas*, *The Lion King* and *Aladdin* are all right in their way, but it is reasonable to expect British children to find some reflection of their own background and habits in their entertainment. In the literature that exists today there is no problem: we produce the best picture books in the world, with some fine novels to turn to later. But for children dependent entirely upon the screen, good home-grown productions are few and far between among the avalanche of feeble cartoon shows and American films now dominating the

home television and video market.

Should we therefore put up the same type of defence against cultural invasion so heroically mounted by the French in the Gatt negotiations of recent memory? It is a tempting idea, if we could only first agree among ourselves what exactly British culture truly is. As always, this is not easy. Charles Dickens, the epitome of British reading tastes in the 19th century, was out of the time by one GWM Reynolds with novels like *Liver of the Harem*. The BBC, once seen as the true voice of Britain, used to lose out to the commercial Radio Luxembourg in audience numbers even when broadcasting was in its heyday. Who – or what – most stands for British taste in these two examples?

British culture has always been a hotch-potch, borrowing from abroad when the mood arises. The trick is to absorb the alien before the alien absorbs us. But whether the dollars, dimes and nickels so disliked by Dr Tate are really a national threat may be doubted. In this particular case, it could even be that pupils tired of failing arithmetic tests based on our own currency might find the whole idea of thinking in American money interesting and novel enough to start doing better!

The writer is lecturer in child psychology and children's literature at Sussex University.

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obituaries / gazette

Alan Weeks

Over four decades, Alan Weeks came to be known as "the golden voice of television skating". But there was much more to him than that. This modest, friendly man with the mellifluous voice covered Monte Carlo rallies, four football World Cups, Pot Black snooker, swimming, gymnastics, and every Winter Olympic Games since 1964. Of all the sports, ice hockey was his first and dearest love.

Weeks was born in Bristol, but moved to Brighton at the age of five when his father, Captain F.C. Weeks, became pier-master. As he later recounted, it was in Brighton that he saw his first sporting star: "I swam in the Swimming Stadium and watched in wonderment as Pete Desjardins, 1928 Olympic gold medalist, performed prodigious feats from the diving board."

The Swimming Stadium in West Street was not a success, however. It reopened in 1935 as an ice rink named the Sports Stadium, also known as the SS Brighton. "Little did I imagine," wrote Weeks years later, "that

my whole life would be largely influenced by this building." He learnt to skate there, and cheered the efforts of the Brighton Tigers ice hockey team. He was then at Brighton and Hove Grammar School; a fellow pupil was John Nicks, later pair skating champion of the world and now a leading coach in the United States.

At the age of 16, Weeks went to sea as a cadet in the Merchant Navy, later transferring to the Royal Naval Reserve. On demobilisation in 1946, he sought work with the Tom Arnold entertainments organisation in London and to his delight was assigned to their recently acquired Brighton Sports Stadium. He became publicity manager and secretary to Brighton Tigers hockey team. He fell in love with one of the rink's skating instructors, Jane Huckle, and married her in 1947, two days before his 24th birthday.

One of his tasks at the ice rink was to comment on the ice hockey matches over the public address system. Among the spectators one evening was Peter Dimmock of the BBC, co-founder of the television show *Sportsview*. Impressed by what he heard, he invited Weeks to audition at the Empress Hall rink in Epsom, Surrey, west London. The test took place during the second period of a match - and Weeks was then told to broadcast the final period live, on the air for the first time, to thousands of listeners. He survived this stern ordeal with flying colours, and his future with the BBC was assured. But the SS Brighton still came first, and he stayed on his staff until it was closed and demolished in 1965. So great was his affection for the old building that in 1988 he, Valerie Moon, and



Weeks, second from left standing, with the BBC's 1966 World Cup commentary team: from left (standing), Frank Bough, David Coleman, Wally Barnes, and (seated) Ken Aston, Kenneth Wolstenholme, Arthur Ellis. Photograph: Allsport/Hulton Getty



Weeks: 'gold medal commentator' Photograph: BBC

Marilyn Hoskins, stars of some of the ice shows there, organised a reunion in Hove for some 250 skaters and fans.

The BBC's first live television outside broadcast from the south coast was a 60-minute excerpt from Brighton's Ice Circus of 1952, with Weeks as commentator. Six years later the BBC began covering European and World figure skating championships. From 1958 until his retirement at the centenary World Figure Skating Championships at Edmonton, Alberta, in March this year, Weeks reported every major skating event, including the 1967 world roller championships. Even at

72 he still sounded young and enthusiastic.

Weeks reported ice sports for 38 years, gymnastics for 27, football for 23 and swimming for 20. His work took him to 26 different countries. He was popular among Britain's Olympic sports folk as "the gold medal commentator", for it fell to him to narrate the victory ceremonies for the skaters John Curry, Robin Cousins, Christopher Dean and Jayne Torvill, and the swimmers David Wilkie and Duncan Goodhew. Weeks was best known for his skating commentaries, never speaking too much but always ready with the name of the complex jump or lift which the viewer had just seen. In 1990 the world ice titles were determined in Halifax, Nova Scotia; as he told Enid Lowe of *Ice Age* magazine, he was able to revise some old haunts - his ship had docked there during the Second World War.

Alan Weeks and I knew each other for half a century, from the days when I took my first faltering steps on the SS Brighton ice, and his wife was a school friend of my sister Joan. We were last in touch two months ago, when he rang me on his return from Edmonton about the biography which Liz Solihon and I were planning to write. "I

just have to go for a medical check-up," he said, "then you must come over to discuss it."

Deanna L. Bird

Alan Frederick Weeks, sports commentator: born Bristol 8 September 1923; public relations officer, Sports Stadium, Brighton 1946-65; Secretary, Brighton Tigers Ice Hockey Club 1946-65; BBC sports commentator 1951-96; director, London Lions Ice Hockey Club 1973-74; director, Sports Aid Foundation 1976-83; governor 1983-96; married 1947 Jane Huckle (one son, and one son and one daughter deceased); died Hove 11 June 1996.

Brian Hartley

"Massai" Hartley, as Brian Hartley was sometimes known, fell in love with Africa in 1929 when, as a 22-year-old junior agricultural officer in the Colonial Service, he was posted to Mwanza in what was then western Tanganyika. Over the years, he was decorated MBE, OBE and CMG for his services to agriculture, and he spent most of his pension on a project that successfully introduced camels to the Masai along the foothills of Mount Kilimanjaro in the dusty north of Tanzania.

Hartley would have been the first to remark upon the neat symmetry of these two parts of his life. The tall, strapping Englishman with the twinkling eyes and open face never matched the caricature of the strutting colonial administrator: he was always happiest with the African people in the villages and bush. A benevolent host, he would sit at the head of his table, wielding a glass of red wine, and recite Tennyson's "Ulysses": "Come my friends, 'tis not too late to see a newer world..."

As a young man, Hartley was struck with the *le mal d'Afrique* - and though he ventured as far afield as Aden, Iraq, Turkey and Trinidad, he spent much of the next 67 years thinking up ways to give something back to the continent he loved.

He was born in Leicestershire in 1907, the son of a civil servant, and grew up at a country

boy in a large family. After some initial training, he entered the Colonial Service which sent him to Wadham College, Oxford, and then to the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture in Trinidad. Offered the choice of running coffee farms in the West Indies, rubber plantations in Malaya, or cotton production in Tanganyika, Hartley chose to go to Africa.

As a junior agricultural officer, he was expected to buy a car out of his own salary, and although he spent £200 on a Box Ford, he found when he got to Mwanza that he preferred to walk. Travelling at the head of a line of porters, he became known for the swinging stride that remained so characteristic of him. He got to know every corner of the huge province, learned Kisukuma and quickly made friends with the local Sukuma tribespeople. Later, he would also learn to speak fluent Arabic, Somali, Kima, and of course perfect Kiswahili - not what is known as "Kisettler".

Hartley's main job was to encourage the Sukuma to become self-sufficient in cotton, which they sold at auction in Mwanza to Asian traders who were telegraphed from Liverpool every week with the cotton exchange prices. Hartley's isolation from other colonials fed his independent spirit and gave him an intense, passionate love of Africa that never left him.

In 1938, he was posted to Aden as the agricultural officer. Aden was the place after Tanganyika that would most profoundly hold his affections. He and his best friend, Peter Davy, were determined to join the RAF at the start of the Second World War, but as fluent Arab speakers were considered too valuable to send home. Instead, Hartley was made assistant commandant of the camel corps at Subeih, near Aden. His job was to dress up in Arab dress and patrol the beaches, identifying German and Italian submarines that were forced to surface in the Bab el-Mandeb straits. The post gave him a lifelong interest in camels and how they flourish in desert conditions.

After the war, Hartley added the job of political officer to his responsibilities, and in 1946 he was appointed Director of Agriculture in the Aden Protectorate. The two jobs went well together, as when an attempt to broker peace between the warring Fadhal and Lower Yafai tribesmen succeeded only after Hartley started a cotton scheme at Abyan, 50 miles north of Aden port. He was appointed CMG for the Abyan scheme. In three years, the project made more than £1m profit, and both tribes referred to cotton as "white gold". His nickname among the Arabs was "Al-Zera'i", "the farmer". It was in Aden that Hartley

met Doreen Sanders, the daughter of an Indian Army officer, whom he married in 1951 at the age of 43. Africa, however, became their home. Hartley had already bought a 2,000-acre farm at Mweiga in 1934, and in 1952, during the Mau Mau, they bought and began to develop Langensui ranch between Mount Kilimanjaro and Mount Meru in northern Tanganyika.

Starting off with 16,500 acres of arid acacia bush, Hartley turned the ranch into a showpiece that eventually stretched over 89,000 acres and raised Boran beef cattle, sheep, goats and horses. In 1953, he became a trustee of the Tanganyika National Parks, and when the ranch was nationalised by the government in the mid-1960s he



Hartley: *le mal d'Afrique* Photograph: Simon Upton

turned his talents to Rhodesia, Somalia, Turkey, Yemen, Ethiopia and Uganda, where he worked as an adviser on livestock for nomads for the United Nations and the World Bank. When his son Aiden covered the Somali civil war for Reuters, many Somali leaders recognised the Hartley name.

From 1980, Hartley worked as a volunteer for Oxfam, Action Aid and Farm Africa. The Karamoja famine in northern Uganda, which had killed hundreds of thousands of people by 1982, was the start to his next great life adventure. He travelled to Karamoja to advise the local people on rebuilding their devastated agriculture. Two years later, he again visited Uganda, and from there went on to Tanzania. Travelling by *matatu* (bush taxi), he revisited all the areas where he had been an agricultural officer in the 1920s. His return to Tanzania came at a time when the Tanzanian government was beginning to turn its back on the socialism of the 1960s and instigate a wide range of economic and agricultural reforms.

Hartley realised he would never again farm the land as a settler: instead he was determined to help the local tribespeople. He was eventually allowed once again to live on his old ranch, and embarked on a project to introduce the camel to the Masai. It was no easy task, for the Masai are particularly attached to cattle. Camels, they argued, were the product of mating a giraffe with a lion, and besides everyone knows that camels spread the desert.

Helped out by his son, Kim, Hartley persevered. The Masai could come and drink the camels' milk, and talk to the camels who tended them. Soon they came to realise that milk was still to be had in the dry season, and that camels ignored the grass that the cattle favoured, preferring instead to browse. Hartley's camel project, which started with eight beasts and now numbers 300, was largely financed out of his Colonial Service pension. It was typical of the soft-spoken modest man who could always be relied on to think up a small-scale private solution to Africa's many problems, whether it was importing fish-brooks for a village in Sudan or asking his wife, in the truck to Karamoja, to carry a batch of guinea-pigs on her knees so that the starving tribespeople could breed them and have something to eat.

Flannetha Rocco

Brian Joseph Hartley, agriculturalist, colonial administrator, conservationist: born Kegworth, Leicestershire 31 July 1907; MBE 1934, OBE 1945; CMG 1950; married 1951 Doreen Sanders (three sons, one daughter); died Mombasa, Kenya 5 June 1996.

Negligent landlord will not be prosecuted

LAW REPORT

12 June 1996

Regina v Director of Public Prosecutions, ex parte Jones; Queen's Bench Divisional Court (Lord Justice Auld and Mr Justice Sachs) 10 June 1996

The test of whether someone was guilty of negligence so gross as to justify their being prosecuted for manslaughter was necessarily imprecise and a prosecutor was entitled to decide that a landlord, who had failed to implement fire safety precautions required by the local authority, should not be prosecuted after someone had died in a fire at his premises.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court dismissed an application by Jennifer Jones for judicial review of a decision of the Director of Public Prosecutions, acting by the Crown Prosecution Service, not to prosecute Richard Boddington for an offence of manslaughter following the death of Miss Jones's 20-month-old daughter, Terri-Ann, in a fire at premises owned by Mr Boddington.

Douglas Day QC and Colin Davis QC (for the applicant, Alan Moses QC and T. Kerr (CPS, Yorkshire) for the DPP; Malcolm Swift QC and Adrian Dent (Grampian, Scarborough) for Mr Boddington.

Lord Justice Auld said Mr Boddington was the owner of

the Richmond Hotel at 60-68 North Marine Road, Scarborough, which he ran as a home for homeless people, most of whom paid rent by means of housing benefit. Each person or family occupied one room in which they slept and cooked.

In November 1993 Scarborough Borough Council served on Mr Boddington a notice requiring him to undertake improvements in the fire safety precautions at the premises. Mr Boddington said he was unable to meet the substantial cost of the new works without a council grant. No further progress had been made before the fatal fire occurred.

Miss Jones, together with her partner, John Devlin, and their two children, Natasha and Terri-Ann, had taken room 35 on the second floor in early January 1994. All four slept in one room except when the occupant of room 36 was away, when the children slept in there. They would be locked in the room at night to prevent them playing in the corridors and disturbing other residents.

In the early hours of 5 May 1994 a fire broke out in room

32 on the second floor. One of its occupants, Katherine Harrison, died. The other escaped and alerted Mr Boddington. He then alerted other residents, including Miss Jones, who was sleeping alone in room 35. She went to unlock the door to room 36 but was unable to reach it because of smoke in the corridor. The fire brigade rescued the children but Terri-Ann died on the way to the hospital.

Inquests were held in October 1994. The jury returned a verdict of unlawful killing in respect of Terri-Ann Jones and of accidental death in respect of Katherine Harrison. After the inquest Ian Stamp, a special counsel lawyer for the Yorkshire Area of the CPS, agreed to reconsider an earlier decision not to prosecute Mr Boddington. But he adhered to his original view that there was insufficient evidence to provide a realistic prospect of conviction for involuntary manslaughter.

The applicant's case was that Mr Stamp had misdirected himself on the test of involuntary manslaughter. The test was not whether a jury

would be sure that Mr Boddington was guilty of a "very high degree of negligence" as Mr Stamp had said in his affidavit, but, as explained by Lord Macleay LC in *R v Adomako* [1995] 1 AC 171 at 187, whether Mr Boddington was guilty of negligence which could be characterised as gross in the light of "the seriousness of the breach of duty committed by [him] in all the circumstances in which [he] was placed when it occurred".

In his Lordship's judgment, the applicant's argument wrongly treated part of Lord Macleay's reasoning as a statutory formula to be incanted to demonstrate its application.

It was plain from his affidavit that Mr Stamp had applied the necessary imprecise *Adomako* test, namely whether there was a realistic prospect of proving Mr Boddington's breach of duty was so serious or "gross" or "so bad in all the circumstances as to amount... to a criminal act".

His Lordship also rejected the applicant's argument that Mr Stamp's decision was unreasonable in the sense defined in *Associated Provincial Picture Houses Ltd v Wednesbury Corporation* [1948] 1 KB 223.

Paul Magrath, Barrister

Uno Chiyo

The novelist and kimono designer Uno Chiyo was an enchantingly vivacious old lady who occasionally appeared on Japanese television wearing unusually classic kimono, old-fashioned hairstyles and thick pebble glasses. It was easy to see what a beauty she must have been in her youth, and to understand why so many men - most of them quite unworthy of her - fell under her spell.

She reminded me of the sexually voracious Mariene Dietrich - her almost exact contemporary - revealed in her daughter Maria Riva's bitter biography. Or of the connoisseur *grandes dames*, still avid for male attention, in Ronald Firbank's novels, one of whose delicately caricatured aristocrats, Lady Parvula de Panzoust, loves to practise her "hobby" of "standing in shafts of sunlight", just as Uno Chiyo to the very last gasp adored basking in the glow of media celebrity.

The first time I saw her in the flesh was at the Tokyo Imperial Hotel for the celebration of her 88th birthday, the special occasion known in Japan as *heiju*. Hundreds of friends and fans attended. During the long evening she changed her resplendent kimono three times, a custom (*o-iro-naoshi*) more usually performed by young brides at the wedding reception after the Shinto ceremony. These were really just opportunities for the star of the evening to freshen her make-up, and to the end Uno was an ardent *maquilleuse* - her first published story was the prize-winning "Shifun no kao" ("Painted Face", 1921).

She started off as a school teacher at the Kawashima Elementary School in Iwakuni in 1914, and in what was then a quiet provincial backwater she at once created a scandal by



Uno: 'Was it instinct? Fear? Or merely lust?'

wearing an elaborate geisha wig and make-up in class, and had a love-affair with a young teacher. The teacher had to transfer to another post, while she went off blithely in search of another romance. It was to be the pattern of all her life.

Uno Chiyo wrote only a handful of works, most of them short. Her longest story is purely autobiographical, *Inozane* (*Confessions of Love*), serialised in the literary magazine *Chuo Koron* from 1933 to 1935, and runs to only 150 pages or so. After a disastrous "arranged" marriage to an unsuitable cousin, she fled to Tokyo. She worked for a while as a waitress in a restaurant opposite the office of *Chuo Koron*, where she got to know the editor who later published her first story.

Confessions of Love is based on a gruesome personal experience in 1929, when she had a love-affair with the artist Beiji Togo, who was recovering from a nasty double love suicide. Uno had wanted to collect information about the affair, in which the girl had died, for a novel. She arrived at Togo's

house with only a handbag, but after making love with the artist on the very blood-stained futon on which the detached double suicide had taken place, she lived with him for five years. Sixty years later, she recalled: "We fell upon each other like animals. You see, it was the blood-stained handbag round his neck that got me."

The "hero" is portrayed as selfish, cowardly, weak-willed, fickle and very capricious. He is an artist who has lived some years in America - "Merican Jap" is the term Uno uses - and he never puts brush to canvas, but scrounges money from curious mortise, insolent girls. In the end, as nearly always in Japanese life, it is the women in this story who emerge as the stronger characters, while the self-important males reveal themselves to be little boys at heart, with second-rate abilities.

Uno Chiyo kept writing sporadically for magazines, and for her own *Suikan* ("Style"). Japan's first fashion magazine. During the Second World War, however, it was suppressed by government censors, who found the articles she wrote on them, like "How to Wear a Summer Frock" and "Proper Underwear - a Must for Western Dames" not in keeping with the seriousness of the times. But the unsinkable Uno Chiyo resurrected it during the Occupation. She became even more famous as an innovative kimono designer than as a writer.

Her "Ami hitori no onna no hanashi" ("Story of a Woman Alone", 1971) is another fascinating re-telling of her life, mainly confining itself to her early years and her precocious sexual nature. She asks herself, "Was it instinct? Fear? Or merely lust?" as she ponders her youthful erotica. She emerges as a woman who did exactly as she pleased.

Her beautiful short novel *Ohan* she declares to be the most "constructed" of her works, claiming its rather erratic story is based on *La Princesse de Clèves*. It is a historical novel about the puppet-makers and puppeteers of Shikoku, and was awarded the Noma Prize when it appeared in 1957. The film director Kon Ichikawa made it into a movie in 1984.

Uno Chiyo celebrated her 95th birthday in grand style with a party at the Ginza branch of Takashimaya Department Store. The eighth-floor art gallery staged an exhibition of her works, including manuscripts of her novels as well as their now rare first editions, and a number of sumptuous formal kimonos designed by her. Moreover, there was an exact reconstruction of her gorgeous living-room in the high-class Aoyama district of Tokyo.

During the run of the show, this indefatigable nonagenarian was on display every day to chat with a retinue of famous friends in the presence of an appreciative audience and adoring television cameras.

For the magazine *Chuo Uno Chiyo* composed this maxim: "I like people who don't give up their lust for life in whatever situation they find themselves until the very last moment." Again, she said: "All deaths before the age of 100 are accidental deaths, deaths caused by carelessness or thoughtlessness. Men and women can live naturally to be 100 and over." Uno Chiyo just missed that mark.

James Kirkup

Uno Chiyo, novelist and kimono designer: born Kawanishi 28 November 1897; died Tokyo 10 June 1996.

Births, Marriages & Deaths

BIRTHS

LINDSELL: On Saturday 25 May 1996, to Joanna (Gibson) and Paul, a son, Randal George.

Announcements for Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS (Births, Adoptions, Marriages, Deaths, Memorial services, Wedding anniversaries, In Memoriam) should be sent in writing to the Gazette Editor, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL, telephoned to 0171-293 2011 or faxed to 0171-293 2010, and are charged at £6.50 a line (VAT extra).

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

The Duke of Edinburgh, President, attends the 19th Royal Agricultural Society of the Commonwealth Conference at the Royal Albert Hall, London, 12-14 June. The Duke of Edinburgh, President, attends the 19th Royal Agricultural Society of the Commonwealth Conference at the Royal Albert Hall, London, 12-14 June. The Duke of Edinburgh, President, attends the 19th Royal Agricultural Society of the Commonwealth Conference at the Royal Albert Hall, London, 12-14 June.

Changing of the Guard The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at White Horse, 11am. In Scotland: The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at White Horse, 11am. In Scotland: The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at White Horse, 11am.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr J.W. Rees and Miss D.L. Mann. The engagement is announced between James William, son of Mr and Mrs Colin Rees, of Chamberlain House, Wells, Somerset, and Debra Lucienne, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Martin Mann, of Lodes, Kingston St Mary, Somerset.

Birthdays

Mr George Bush, former president of the United States, 72; Mr Mark Calvechecchia, golfer, 36; Mr Charles Clark, lawyer and publisher, 63; Mr John Copley, opera producer, 62; Mr Vic Damone, singer, 68; Mr Michael Fabricant MBE, 46; Sir Peter Froggatt, Pro-Chancellor, Dublin University, 68; Lady Herries of Terregles, racehorse trainer, 58; Sir Kenneth Hollings, former High Court Judge, 78; Mr Pat Jennings, footballer, 51; Mr Peter Jones, actor, 76; Sir Paul Kennedy, a Lord Justice of Appeal, 61; Mr Oliver Kinnison, composer and conductor, 44; Lord McCusker, a Senator in the College of Justice in Scotland, 67; Dr Ernest Mario, co-chairman and chief executive, Alcan Corporation, Palo Alto, 58; Lord Mayhew, former government minister, 81; Mr John WMCW Thompson, former Editor of the *Sunday Telegraph*, 76; Mr John Townsend MBE, 62.

Anniversaries

Births: Sir Richard Baskerville, diplomat, translator and poet, baptised 1908; Harriet Martineau, novelist and historian, 1802; Charles Kingsley, novelist, 1819; Robert Anthony Eden, first Earl of Avon, statesman,

1897; Brigid Antonia Brophy (Lady Levey), novelist, 1929; Anne Frank, diarist, 1929. Deaths: Jean Etienne Liotard, painter, 1789; John Nicholson Ireland, composer, 1962; Sir Herbert Read, poet and critic, 1988; Dame Marie Rambert, ballet producer, director and teacher, 1982. On this day: Magdalen College, Oxford, was founded, 1458; the first electric telegraph was patented by Sir Charles Wheatstone, 1837; the Rotherhithe-Sheppey Tunnel beneath the Thames was opened, 1908; in Greece, King Constantine abdicated in favour of his second son, Alexander, 1917; the Beatles were appointed MBE in the Birthday Honours, 1965; Boris Yeltsin was elected president of the Russian Republic, 1991. Today is the Feast Day of St Eustachius, St John of the Sacrament, St Leo III, pope, St Odolphus, St Osmundus and St Tamas.

Lectures

National Gallery: Charles Harrison, "Degas (II): Degas's Bathers and Other People", 1pm. Victoria and Albert Museum: Geoffrey Oye, "20th-century Craft Movements", 2.30pm. Tate Gallery: Sarah O'Brien Twobing, "Rothko", 1pm. Leicester University: Dr Bernard Crump, "Shifting the Responsibility for Meeting the Cost of Drugs", 1pm.

Luncheons

HM Government Mr Michael Portillo, Secretary of State for Defence, was the host at a luncheon held yesterday at Lancaster House, London SW1, in honour of Dato' Syed Hamid bin Syed Jaafar Albar, Minister for Defence of Malaysia.

Newspaper Society Mr Robin Burgess, President of the Newspaper Society, hosted a lunch held yesterday at the Newspaper Society's headquarters, London WC1, in honour of Lord Wakeham, Chairman of the Press Complaints Commission.

Foundation for Science and Technology

Lord Butterworth was in the chair at a lecture and dinner discussion held yesterday evening at the Royal Society, London SW1. Dr John Holmes, Professor Charles Curtis and Sir Francis Graham-Smith spoke on "Disposal of Radioactive Waste: two sides of a coin". Among those present were:

Lord Barber of Tordburton; Lord Berkeley; Lord Brightman; Lady Butterworth; Lord Campbell of Croy; Lord Greville; Lord Howe of Troon; Lord Jenkin of Rading; Lord Perry of Walton; Lord Porter; Lord Sherfield; Lord Taylor of Gryffe; Sir Kenneth Eastoe; Sir Andrew Huxley; Sir Hugh Laddie; Sir Richard Morris; Admiral of the Fleet Sir Julian Oswald; Professor Sir Frederick Warner; Dr Michael Clark MBE; Mr Tim Dwyer MBE; Mr Patrick Thompson MBE; Mr G. Wardell MBE; Mr Michael Folger; Dr Anne McLellan.

Company of Tobacco

Pipe Makers and Tobacco Blenders

Mr R.L.H. Marton was installed as Master of the Worshipful Company of Tobacco Pipe Makers and Tobacco Blenders at a meeting of the Court of Assistants held yesterday at Haberdashers' Hall, London EC2. Mr R.E.H. Vanderpump, Mr S.G. Orlin and Mr A.L. Styles were installed as Wardens. The Master, Mr Tony Ostik, the Past Master, and Mr Peter Rawlins were the speakers at a luncheon held afterwards.

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Foreign Exchange Rates

STERLING		1 month 3 months		DOLLAR		D-MARK	
Country	Spot	1 month	3 months	Spot	1 month	3 months	Spot
US	1505	6-4	1-4	1009			0.6259
Canada	2205	1-10	1-10	136-07	2-1	2-0	0.8803
Germany	2358	61-4	55-52	15363	26-34	04-01	1.0004
France	78870	109-0	104-00	52024	75-66	217-207	13.874
Italy	22971	59-73	56-58	9452	44-59	125-05	10.0236
Japan	7510	75-70	65-63	154-0	45-44		0.6736
ECU	1491	1-11	45-40	12170	7-6	23-25	0.5378
Belgium	48232	91-9	26-38	31690	55-5	18-16	10.0236
Denmark	85203	68-20	65-20	11702	35-30	130-13	7.1559
Netherlands	24324	68-22	205-50	17032	35-30	107-102	1.0157
Austria	10293	73	20-14	15780	4-7	12-7	0.8040
Norway	10010	89-50	30-10	65649	42-17	10-40	4.2730
Spain	14200	100-50	100-50	12625	47-47	10-40	64.9333
Sweden	10345	0-6	1-9	67177	26-18	260-230	4.9324
Switzerland	19474	54-48	65-52	12625	35-34	107-107	0.9793
Australia	20020	1-10	1-10	12625	35-34	107-107	0.9793
Hong Kong	11085	107-01	228-70	77398	2-12	55-55	10.0239
New Zealand	13257	0-10	0	24880	4-14	60-80	10.0239
South Africa	22000	43-57	53-58	14746	30-32	88-90	0.9791
Bank of India	7150	0-10	0	10400	30-32	88-90	0.9791
Singapore	21635	0-10	0	14030	4-14	60-80	10.0239

OTHER SPOT RATES

Country	Sterling	Dollar	Country	Sterling	Dollar
Argentina	15340	09987	Nigeria	59792	845000
Australia	165012	10716	Oman	05914	03650
Brazil	15969	03666	Pakistan	24500	24500
China	127846	83235	Philippines	41,779	26,220
Egypt	52814	34407	Portugal	243,226	169,440
Finland	72747	46889	Qatar	55895	35470
Ghana	259215	16300	Russia	778056	567,400
India	372,391	242,330	South Africa	509,47	43,950
Indonesia	53,592	34,650	Taiwan	42,626	27,780
Kuwait	14610	03001	UAE	56419	36,731

Notes: Forward rates quoted high to low are at a discount (premium) from spot rate; those quoted low to high are at a premium (discount) to spot rate. *Dollar rates quoted as reciprocals. For the latest foreign exchange rates call 800 1 23 3033. Calls cost 35¢ per minute (cheap rate) 45¢ other times.

Tourist Rates

E Shyn		F Shyn		G Shyn	
Australia(Dollars)	18700	France(Francs)	77050	New Zealand(Dollars)	27200
Austria(Gillings)	160400	Germany(Marks)	22800	Norway(Kroner)	28500
Belgium(Francs)	468700	Greece(Drachmas)	3630000	Portugal(Escudos)	233000
Canada(Dollars)	20840	India(Rupees)	1590000	Spain(Pesetas)	1000000
Denmark(Krone)	07620	Indonesia(Rupiahs)	09450	Sweden(Kronor)	102000
Denmark(Krone)	08500	Italy(Lira)	233000000	Switzerland(Francs)	15750
Holland(Gulden)	25570	Japan(Yeni Motes)	850000	Turkey(Liras)	100000000
Finland(Marks)	29800	Malaysia	03425	United States(Dollars)	10000

Interest Rate

UK		Germany		US		Japan	
Base	5.75%	Discount	25%	Prime	8.75%	Discount	05%
France		Lombard	45%	Discount	500%	Belgian	
Intervention	3.60%	Casale		Fed Funds	5.5%	Discount	2.5%
Italy		Prime	70%	Spain		Central	3.3%
Discount	800%	Discount	50%	10-Day Repo	7.5%	Switzerland	
Netherlands		Denmark		Sweden		Discount	15%
Advances	2.80%	Discount	3.5%	Repo (Ave)	6.7%	Lombard	42%

Bond Yields

Country	5 yr	Yield %	10 yr	yield %	Country	5 yr	Yield %	10 yr	yield %
UK	71%	148	74%	803	Netherlands	9%	525	6%	641
US	62%	64	69%	937	Spain	97%	834	105%	912
Japan	55%	25%	3%	246	Italy	0% 10%	935	105%	960
Australia	67%	820	0%	947	Belgium	74%	539	7%	671
Germany	52%	137	82%	652	Sweden	0%	756	6%	836
France	54%	555	75%	691	ECU area	97%	597	74%	297

Source: HSBC Markets Research. Yield calculated on local taxes. *** Denotes new benchmark.

Money Market Rates

	O/Night	7 Day	1 Month	3 Months	6 Months	1 Year
Interbank	4 5/8	5 1/8 5/8	5 1/4 5/8	5 1/4 5/8	5 1/4 6	5 1/4 5/8
Sterling CDs	-	5 1/8	5 1/4	5 1/4	5 1/4	5 1/4
Local Authority Deps	5 1/4	5 1/8	5 1/4	5 1/4	5 1/4	5 1/4
Discount Market Deps	5 1/4	5 1/8	5 1/4	5 1/4	5 1/4	5 1/4
Treasury Bills (Buy)	-	-	5 1/4	5 1/4	5 1/4	5 1/4
Dollar CDs	-	-	4 5/8	5 1/4	5 1/4	5 1/4

Life Financial Futures

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Liffe FT-SE Index Options

Settlement price: 3752.0	closing offer price				Call/Put
Series	3700	3750	3800	3850	Total/vols
June	67/9	29/24	8/54	1/100	--
July	88/31	58/61	34/78	17/112	--
Aug	108/54	78/74	53/101	34/132	--
Sept					--

Sep	13
Commodities	

INDUSTRIAL METALS - London Metal Exchange					
S/Specs	Cash	3 mths	Volume	LATE Stocks	chg
Aluminum H-91765-775	161-12	76-60	862225		1255
Aluminum Alloy	185-55	120-35	321	85580	230
Copper A	2380-90	260-20	69413	256000	1225
Lead	82-18	82-13	7453	97550	25

Michel	7775-25
Tia	6780-80
Zoe	975-6

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AGRICULTURAL

Cocoa		Coffee		Barley		Potatoes		Potatoes	
LCE	\$/ton	LCE	\$/tonne	LCE	\$/tonne	LCE	\$/tonne	ATA	\$/tonne
Jul	116	Jul	291	Sep	106.40	Nov	85.00	Jun	27
Sep	1143	Sep	293	Nov	109.25	Nov	101.00	Jun	27
Dec	1032	Nov	178	Jan	112.00	Jan	145.30	Jan	27
Vol:	8,770	Vol:	5,168	Vol:	31	Vol:	128	Vol:	323
White Sugar		Freight		Wheat		Corn		1700 Flakes	
LCE	\$/tonne	LCE	\$/tonne	LCE	\$/tonne	LCE	\$/tonne		

Loc	Shipping	Loc	Shipping
Aug	383.00	Jun	122
Oct	345.00	Jul	122

Dec	332.50	Vol	126	Nov	361.25	Dec	420.00-397.00	299.50
Vol	2,273	Index	1,202	Vol	371	Dec	324.00-357.00	353.00
Other Softs (Agricultural)								Source: CME
May	Mocha (M)	S/none		June	Soya Oils	FL000kg		985
May/June	Cocoa (H)	S/none	1720	June/June	Coconut Oil (H)	S/none		8500
July	Cotton (NY)	UScents/lb	802	July	Sunflower Oils	S/none		5850
July	Wool	A/cm/kg	66.0	July	Rapeseed Oil	FL000kg		1010

July	Rubber	licensing
Origins: Dutch/EC - easy origin - 1 Philippine		
ENVELOPE		

BrentCrude		(\$/barrel)	Gasoil	(\$/tonne)	WTI	Products 1				(\$/tonne)
IPE	5,300pm	*chng Yr ago	IPE	ctdsg	*chng	Spm	Spot Crk	North West	Europe	
Jul	1604	-0.92	1619	10.60	+0.50	July	Unrefined Gasoline		80-95	
Aug	1761	-0.91	1616	Jul	289.25 -100	Aug	1825	Napalm		174-178
Sep	1731	-0.27	1653	Aug	184.50 -125	Sep	1675	EC Gasoil		80-95
Vol:	279.49		Index	1610	Vol:	11599	Oct	1845	Heavy Fuel Oil	82-84

COMMODITY INDICES

USDC Indices	Base date	+Spot	% Day Chg	Dec 31/50	% Yr Chg	Year ago	% Yr Chg
Index	1970-100	20447	+0.50	20350	+0.48	1959	-0.52
Agricultural	1970-100	30577	+0.85	29175	-8.52	2441	-26.66
Energy	1960-100	6817	+0.21	7131	-3.00	615	-13.33
Industrial Metals	1977-100	17677	+0.54	16332	-5.96	23252	-11.54
Investment	1970-100	19450	+0.68	18771	-6.65	17138	-2.49
Precious Metals	1973-100	48878	+0.20	49866	-0.24	50178	-2.38

Source: Economics Section A & C. *USDC is an indicator and not a component of Goldman Sachs & Co. Prices as of 7 June 1961.

100 Largest Insurance Fund

Stock	Mid	Other	Stock	Mid	Other
Abbey Equity Sec 4	282.5	277.4	Stock & General Managed Accm	264.3	270.46
Abbey International Sec 4	2281	2361	London & Manchester Flexible Acc	650.0	
Abbey Managed Sec 4	7763	8039	London Equity	723.0	
Abbey Managed Sec 4	14.4	14.8	London Index	670.0	
Abbey National UK Equity	1015	1020	M & G Managed Bond Acc	101.7	102.4
Abbey Equity Acc Sec 3	1053	1050	M & G Recovery Bond Acc	92.5	98.26
Abbey Equity Acc Sec 3a	2084	2048	Management Investors Managed	167.0	167.0
Abbey Dividend Growth Fund				33.0	33.0

Allied Dunbar Equity Acc	18868	201	Midland UK Equity
Allied Dunbar Gen 4 High Income Str	2 38.5	1756	NatWest Growth Managed
Allied Dunbar Managed Acc	18942	385	NatWest Security Mgt
		13516	

AXA Global Manager Equity	6521	6992	Norwich UK Equity	6749	7531
AXA Global Manager Equity	6521	6987	Norwich UK Equity & NAIMS MF	6749	7531
AXA Equity & Law Div Sml Gr	6768	7883	Norwich UK Unbonded Managed	6892	6756
AXA Equity & Law Hk Div Sml Gr	7382	7323	Norwich UK Unbonded Wld Pfr	7022	6970
AXA Equity & Law UK Div Sml Gr	7888	7213	PM Managed	574	671
Banque Paribas Equity	10085	6927	Pacific Equity Hk	6749	6749
Banque International Asset	4723	457	Pacific Equity Hk	7083	7083
Banque Managed Equity	6101	6404	Pennant Portfolio Managed	3029	4210
BlackRock International Fund Sml	66623	5913	Presidential Intl Mgt Sml St	9433	9268
BNP Paribas Int'l Hk Sml	66292	59133	Royal Life Investment	6749	6749
			Royal Life Investment	6749	6749

CMFid Equity	302.4	302.4	Royal Scottish UK Equity
CMFid Sapphire/Mind	338.9	354.7	Scottish Amicable Equity Ser 1
Old Wills Profit Band	106.5	106.5	Scottish Amicable Managed Ser

Commercial Union E&I	20430	26505	Scotton Equitable Unit	3033	3629
Commercial Union Managed	4570	4916	Scotton Life Managed	3033	3629
Commercial Union Life	5071	5071	Scotton Life Managed	3033	3629
Commercial Union With Profit	1303	1003	Scot Sav Plan (Bk With Profit)	104	104
Equity Star Managed 2	9602	9603	Scot Sav Plan (Bk With Profit)	104	104
Family Performance	1222	1045	Scot Sav Plan (Bk With Profit)	104	104
Florida Preferred Life	4557	2700	Scot Sav Plan (Bk With Profit)	104	104
Florida Preferred Life Managed	5084	5084	Scot Sav Plan (Bk With Profit)	104	104
Florida Preferred With Profit	2013	2117	Standard European	3002	3002
General Accident With Profit	523	5212	Standard Fire East	1002	1002

GA Prov Mutual Eq Ord	8941	8098	Standard Fund Internat
GA Prov Mutual Mgd Ord	9543	5805	Standard Managed
Gen Managed	3850	3738	Sun Alliance Equity
GRE Equity Acc	2295	2295	Sun Alliance Managed

GRE International Acc	787.7	620.9	Sun Life Distribution	165.8	196.7
GRE Managed Acc	787.2	620.9	Sun Life Diversions	177.1	301.2
H&M General Equity	740.4	783.6	Sun Life Equity Acc	177.0	1017.4
H&M International Gen A	638.8	677.1	Sun Life Equity Div	62.7	140.7
H&M International Gen Prem Ser 3	638.8	677.1	Sun Life Gen Century Div	140.7	140.7
J.F. Rothschild/JP's Policy Ltd	922.9	925.5	Sun Life Gen Century Algt		
Luxembourg Imperial UK Algt Acc	318.8	333.4	Sun Life Gen Maple Lead Algt Acc	652.9	653.6
Luxembourg Imperial UK Acc	608.0	659.6	Sun Life Gen Maple Lead Algt Div	44.8	279.8
Luxembourg UK Equity Acc Ser 3	608.0	659.6	Sun Life Gen Maple Lead Algt Div	43.1	
Manulife UK Equity Acc	124.4	125.9	TBS Hedgefund	265.5	279.8

Legal & General International Acc	0440	1570	TSG Managed
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BA and American create air superpower

DAVID USBORNE AND
MAGNUS GRIMOND

British Airways and American Airlines yesterday ran into a storm of protest after unveiling plans for a highly ambitious code-sharing agreement that would create the world's largest aviation alliance with the power to transform competition between Europe and the United States.

Under the arrangement, announced simultaneously in London by BA's chief executive, Bob Ayling, and in New York by his American counterpart, Robert Crandall, the two airlines would splice together their schedules and share flight codes to forge

a single network of routes around the world. But the alliance will be the subject of close scrutiny on both sides of the Atlantic and rivals were quick to warn yesterday of the dangers to competition.

Virgin's Richard Branson immediately condemned the deal as anti-competitive. Delta Air Lines, the third-biggest carrier, said it would oppose the alliance unless Britain and the US reached agreement on an "open-skies" agreement to further open up Heathrow airport to US airlines. Continental Airlines and the Dutch operator KLM were others that expressed unease at the link-up.

with only USAir, in which BA has a 34.6 per cent stake, saying it would open up new opportunities.

The deal was welcomed by the stock market, which marked BA's shares 9p higher to 562p. Chris Tarry, an analyst with Kleinwort Benson Securities, described it as a major step. "It is likely to mark a greater willingness on the part of the UK to have a more liberal [open-skies] agreement. But it also opens the way for Virgin and others to wrest concessions," he said.

The link-up means that from April next year passengers booking with BA to the US, for instance, could find themselves

on an American Airlines flight. Among those planes carrying both BA and American flight codes will be Concorde.

The two companies will remain independent, however. Contrary to the rumours of recent weeks, the pact does not foresee any swapping of equity or any trading of seats between the respective boards. British Airways, meanwhile, is seeking to retain its shareholding in USAir.

Instant criticism of the deal was provided by Richard Branson, whose Virgin Atlantic Airways could face harsh new conditions across the Atlantic. "Given the history of these two airlines and their anti-compet-

itive behaviour, it would be hard to believe any rational government, in the interest of consumers, would allow this to go forward," he said.

Already among the world's most powerful airlines, BA and American would together account for almost 60 per cent of traffic between Britain and the US. Between Kennedy airport in New York and Heathrow their share is 70 per cent, while they are the only carriers on the London-to-Dallas route.

Analysts predicted that the two companies will be expected at the very least to carve out from the agreement some routes where their domination would be unacceptable, in-

cluding possibly between New York and London. "This is nowhere near what the governments are going to accept," Craig Jenks, an aviation expert in New York, said. "Were the US to approve this, they would be abandoning the criteria they have applied to all previous cases of this kind".

For the agreement to be viable, the two carriers must extract immunity from the US government from current fair competition regulations. That is likely to be contingent upon the US and British governments resolving long-standing arguments on an "open-skies" aviation agreement.

Comment, page 17



Shake on it: BA director Roger Maynard (left) with American Airlines chief executive Robert Crandall. Photograph: Reuters

Controversy greets head of Exchange

PATRICK TOOHER

The Stock Exchange yesterday ended a five-month search for a new chief executive when it named Gavin Casey to replace Michael Lawrence, who was ousted in January after bitter clashes over his management style. But controversy soon surrounded Mr Casey's appointment when details of his role in the infamous Blue Arrow affair in the 1980s resurfaced.

The Stock Exchange chairman John Kemp-Welch said: "We have been rigorous and thorough in checking this matter with the relevant regulatory authorities and we are satisfied he had no more than a peripheral role [in the Blue Arrow affair]. There was no criticism of him in the [DTI] report."

Mr Casey, 49, was deputy chief executive of County NatWest when the merchant bank launched Blue Arrow's £837m rights issue in 1987 that led to a fraud trial four years later.

He denied being closely involved in the unsuccessful rights issue and rejected allegations made on behalf of one defendant during the trial that he had

"run for cover" when the official investigation into affair began. "I strongly refuted those suggestions at the time and I do so again," he said yesterday.

It was alleged that City advisers bought into the Blue Arrow rights issue to bail out the recruitment agency after realising the cash call would flop. The Court of Appeal quashed convictions of four financiers linked with the rights issue four years ago.

Mr Casey joined Smith New Court in 1989, and became chief operating officer before the broker was bought by Merrill Lynch last year. He has since played a key role in the integration of the two businesses.

"He is a proven manager of change," Mr Kemp-Welch said. "He will lead the executive team in the implementation of the Exchange's strategy, which is now close to being finalised."

The appointment comes at a crucial time for the Exchange, which is nearing momentous changes that will introduce a new electronic system of trading shares.

The Exchange is transforming its current trading system



'Refuted suggestions' over Blue Arrow: Gavin Casey, the new Stock Exchange chief

Photograph: Philip Meech

from a quote-driven one where prices are displayed electronically but deals done by phone, to an order-driven system with electronic matching of trades.

The move threatens the traditional privileges given to market-making firms. However, Mr Casey denied his association with the broker would colour his

view of the debate. "I have no strong theological position either way," he said.

Mr Casey is the Exchange's third chief executive in as many years. Both Mr Lawrence, who was paid a basic salary of £345,000 and received a £500,000 pay-off, plus his predecessor, Peter Rawlins, were sacked. Mr

Rawlins left in 1993 amid controversy over the Taurus electronic share settlement system, which was abandoned at an estimated cost to the City of £400m. But Mr Kemp-Welch denied the chief executive's position was a poisoned chalice. "There was no shortage of people interested in doing the job," he said.

Comment, page 17

Cut in output backs decision to reduce rates

DIANE COYLE
Economics Editor

Manufacturers cut production in April, giving Kenneth Clarke more ammunition to defend his surprise reduction in the level of interest rates last week.

Figures yesterday showing a small decline in manufacturing output and a bigger drop in total industrial output confirmed that industry remains the weak link in the economy. Recent figures have highlighted the contrast between the fortunes of manufacturers and consumers.

"One can only conclude that the Chancellor had a sniff of these figures when he acted last week," said Paul Mortimer-Lee, chief economist at investment bank Paribas. "Despite the setback in manufacturing we are not suffering from a broad deficiency of demand."

Upward revisions to earlier figures were not quite enough to eliminate the recession in manufacturing, which is struggling to escape from its overhang of excess stocks. Its level of output edged down by 0.1 per cent in the last quarter of 1995 and 0.2 per cent in the first quarter of this year.

However, the revisions did show that total industrial output, which includes the utilities, mining and oil and gas extraction as well as manufacturing, reached a record high in March.

"Industry's trio of problems—excess stocks, excess labour and weak overseas markets—will not disappear overnight," said Ian Shepherdson at HSBC Markets. Most economists predict that output growth will remain in the

doldrums for some months, although higher demand is already reflected in increased consumer goods output.

Industry's output fell by 0.8 per cent in April, largely due to a weather-related drop in energy use compared with March. Manufacturing output fell 0.3 per cent during the month.

Taking the three months to April as an indicator of the underlying trend, total output was 0.3 per cent higher than the previous three months, and 1 per cent higher than a year earlier. Manufacturing was flat during the three months and 0.5 per cent up on a year earlier.

The biggest increases in output in February to April came in food, drink and tobacco, transport equipment and textiles, leather and clothing.

Industrial weakness spilled over into construction. Separate figures for the volume of new construction orders yesterday showed that the total rose 1 per cent in April, the second increase running. However, an increase in new housing orders, to their highest level for over a year, and in infrastructure orders accounted for it.

Unemployment figures due today are expected to show another decline in the number of people claiming benefit.

William Wadgrave, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, claimed yesterday that deregulation had meant more jobs. In a speech to the American Chamber of Commerce in London, he said two-thirds of the jobs created since 1993 had been in industries paying above-average wages.

A final record for Thorn-EMI

MATHEW HORSMAN
Media Editor

Perennial takeover candidate Thorn-EMI yesterday unveiled record profits up 27 per cent, in its last set of figures before splitting into two separate companies this summer.

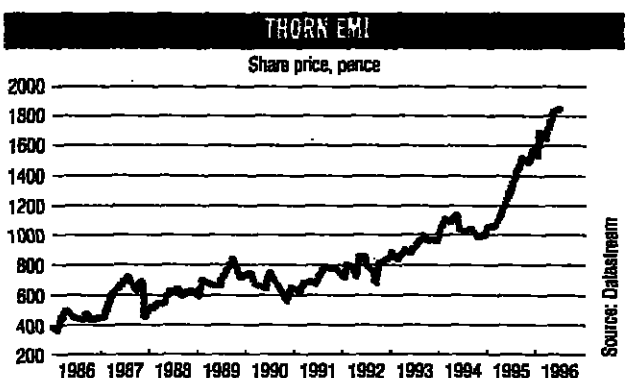
But there was continuing speculation in the City that a hostile bid for the music-to-rentals conglomerate could interrupt the divorce proceedings.

"EMI is virtually the only major record company that isn't owned by a media conglomerate," said one leading analyst. Disney, the US entertainment juggernaut, continued to be a favourite potential bidder. The theme-parks-to-broadcasting company is one of the few US giants without a recording label.

Simon Duffy, group finance director, said yesterday that the company had not received any approaches. "If we did, of course we would consider what was in the best interests of shareholders."

Potential buyers could wait, however, until Thorn and EMI Group are trading separately before launching a bid. The demerger will be put to shareholders on 16 August, and Thorn is expected to begin trading separately the morning of 19 August, the company revealed yesterday.

Pre-tax profits soared to £539m in the year to 31 March,



Preparing to split: Sir Colin Southgate has overseen the past 10 years' restructuring



Source: Datastream

from £424m last time, buoyed by record sales at EMI Music and solid growth in its rentals division.

The results cheered analysts, who predicted double-digit growth for both EMI Group and Thorn, the two successor companies.

"We didn't massage these figures in advance of the demerger," Mr Duffy said yesterday. "We just let the chips fall where they might."

The shares gained 5p to close at 1,843p, compared with analysts' estimates of £20-a-share for the two companies following demerger. If shareholders approve the split they will be offered one new share in Thorn, the rentals company, for every Thorn-EMI share they own. Analysts expect Thorn shares to trade sharply below those of

EMI Group, which, as a pure music and retail play, would fetch a higher market rating.

The two companies will divide net debt of £391.4m, with Thorn taking £260m. Both are expected to follow progressive dividend policies, in line with present practice.

Thorn-EMI declared a final dividend of 29.5p, or 40p for the whole year.

Senior executives working for Thorn following the demerger will receive new options, while EMI executives will see their current options re-priced to reflect the relative value of the new shares.

Sir Colin Southgate, who has overseen the radical restructuring of Thorn-EMI over the last 10 years, will be chairman of both companies, although he is expected to be eventually re-

placed as chairman of Thorn by Hugh Jenkins, currently non-executive deputy chairman. Michael Metcalf will remain as Thorn's group chief executive.

Mr Duffy said last year's results were boosted by a strong performance in the US and European music businesses, where 30 EMI titles sold more than one million copies. Best-sellers included albums by Garth Brooks, Queen, the Rolling Stones, Pink Floyd and the Beatles (the Anthology).

EMI's music performance was in sharp contrast to the fortunes of rivals Sony and PolyGram, both of which announced disappointing sales earlier this year. Mr Duffy said the market in the US was flat last year, which made the company's performance "that much more satisfying".

Barings faces mass defections in equities

NIC CICUTTI

ING Barings, the merchant bank rescued after its collapse at the hands of rogue trader Nick Leeson, is facing the prospect of mass defections from its specialist equities teams following the recent recruitment of more than 50 staff by its rival Deutsche Morgan Grenfell.

The bank is already suing its German rival in New York, after it poached a key member of staff there, encouraging a wave of departures.

At least 25 more Barings employees, members of its Asian desk in London, are now thought to be vulnerable to six and seven-figure salaries now on offer if they sign up with one of their unnamed rivals.

Barings' problems come in the wake of a rapid ratcheting up of City salaries in the past year, leading to poaching on a massive scale as many major banks move to position themselves within the international market place.

The latest threatened defections follow the departure of Andrew Fraser, former head of Barings' Asia team, who has left to join Standard Chartered Securities.

Mr Fraser, who is banned from approaching staff under

the terms of his departure, is believed to have been joined by Andrew Clark, another Barings sales trader.

Several of the Asian team in London are already thought to have been approached by at least one major bank. Barings yesterday would not comment on whether approaches had been made and what the outcome was.

A bank source said that in current conditions, with poachers circling ING Barings, it was not surprising that members of staff were being contacted.

"It is bloody irritating to have people picked off like that," he said. "When we identify those whom we regard as key, we make a point of talking to them to ask if they have been approached. We look at them in the eye and ask them to tell us that they are staying."

Although it was not possible for Barings to match the huge double or triple-salary increases that some are being offered by some banks, potential defections were being given an indication of the "generous" bonuses they might expect next year.

Some staff who did not necessarily want to leave were being placed in an impossible position because everyone around them was going and they felt their team would be disbanded, the source added.

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STOCK MARKETS					
Index	Close	Day's change	Change (%)	1996 High	1996 Low
FTSE 100	3755.70	+26.90	+0.7	3897.10	3639.50
FTSE 250	4462.30	+9.70	+0.2	4568.60	4075.30
FTSE 350	1898.80	+11.50	+0.6	1945.40	1819.90
FT Small Cap	2238.61	-3.51	-0.2	2244.36	1954.06
FT All Share	1885.10	+10.23	+0.5	1924.17	1791.95
New York	5713.73	+25.95	+0.5	5778.00	5032.94
Tokyo	21817.62	+88.47	+0.5	22282.05	19734.70
Hong Kong	10993.35	-149.89	-1.3	11594.99	10204.87
Frankfurt	2546.35	-12.48	-0.5	2570.78	2253.38

INTEREST RATES					
Index	1 Month	1 Year	3 Month	6 Month	9 Month
UK	5.81	6.18	8.03	7.39	8.14
US	5.44	6.18	6.97	6.12	7.10
Japan	0.38	0.94	3.24	2.89	-
Germany	3.28	3.50	5.34	6.70	7.123

CURRENCIES					
Index	Yesterday	Change	Year Ago	Index	Yesterday
\$ (London)	1.5355	+0.42c	1.5946	£ (London)	0.6813
¥ (NY)	1.5355	+0.30c	1.5959	£ (NY)	0.6813
DM (London)	2.3589	+0.08c	2.2384	DM (London)	1.5263
¥ (London)	188.084	+1.042	184.202	¥ (London)	109.465
£ Index	85.01	+0.2	84.3	£ Index	97.5

Source: FT Information

صوتنا من الاعمال



Mr. Cassey's job is to argue over the downsizing, to carry out decisions which have already been taken for him by others. Obviously it is not a particularly exciting role but it is one better suited to the more limited position in the City the Exchange must resign itself to. And just in case Mr Cassey is tempted to follow his predecessor's pretensions, and attempt to go native, let it not be forgotten that he is essentially a creature of Michael Marks, the Smith NewCourt chairman (now Merrill Lynch) most closely asso-

But plans to introduce digital services, perhaps by early 1998, will provide as many as 150 channels through the cable network, industry insiders predict.

Every Wednesday in
THE INDEPENDENT
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market report/shares

DATA BANK

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3755.7 +26.9

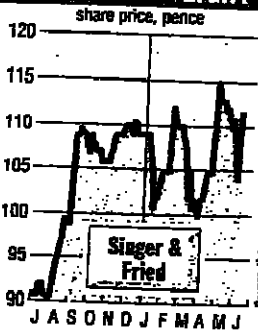
FT-SE 250
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SEAQ VOLUME
563.5m shares,
30,049 bargains

Gifts Index
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SHARE SPOTLIGHT



Rally continues as some prepare for a surge to 4,000

TAKING STOCK

The stock market has almost recovered from the disquieting lurch provoked by the stronger than expected US employment figures.

The FT-SE 100 index rose a further 26.9 points, making a two-day gain of 48.9. But the rally has been achieved in pathetically thin trading with most investors content to sit on the sidelines, awaiting developments.

New York influences have helped; so has evidence that last week's base rate cut was justified on economic grounds and was not merely a blatant political manoeuvre.

Some observers, no doubt with their fingers tightly crossed, believe there are signs shares could be preparing for the surge many anticipate will take Footsie to around the 4,000-point mark.

British Steel was the best performing blue chip. Ahead of year's figures on Monday the

shares rose 6.5p to 176.5p. Profits could show a dramatic advance, nearly doubling to more than £1bn. Current year's forecasts, however, are less impressive and a sharp decline is expected next year.

Retailers drew support from further indications of a growing feeling factor in the high street, with Dixons up 15p to 526p and Kingfisher 11p to 620p.

British Airways responded to its long mooted alliance with American Airlines with a 9p gain to 562p, although there was some disappointment the link was not underlined by a share exchange.

The future composition of Footsie generated excitement with the Footsie steering committee due to decide on any changes today. Orange, the mobile telephone group, and United News & Media, following its deal with MAI, are favourites to join the blue chip



MARKET REPORT

DEREK PAIN

Stock market reporter of the year

club. Foreign & Colonial, the investment group, is a near certain casualty and Greenalls, the pub chain is also likely to be dropped. Courtaulds, 9.5p higher at 439p, and Lasmo, up 2.5p to 179.5p, are others on the border line.

Much of the market action was enjoyed in the lower divisions, with Singer & Friedlander, the merchant bank with more than 44bn under management and controlling stockbroker Collins Stewart, adding 4p to 112p as Panmure Gordon put a buy sign on the shares.

Empac, the media group, enjoyed a NatWest Securities push, gaining 15p to 693p and

Abbey National rose 8.5p to 550.5p as SBC Warburg repeated buy advice.

Tarmac unsettled builders and related shares with a surprise profit warning. Chairman Sir John Banham said first half figures would be "well down" but hoped for an improvement as the year progressed. The shares fell 4p to 112p.

Surrey Free Inns ended 17p higher at 287p as Regent Inns declared its shareholding at 6.63 per cent. Regent was little changed at 249p but Tom Cobleigh, another pub chain where there is the smell of bid action, gained 16p to 265p. Cafe Inns put on 17p at 185p.

Doeflex, the chemical group, gained 18p to 288p. It is buying BTP's polymer unit for £5.9m and raising £6.2m through a one-for-five 230p rights issue.

Celsis International, the healthcare group, edged forward 3.5p to 108.5p as Merrill Lynch said the shares should be closer to 200p. The securities house expects a further loss - £3.3m - in the current year but profits of £3.2m in the following year.

Viewfin produced maiden figures, a seven-month loss of £167,000. The shares, floated at 100p at the start of the year, fell 10p to 61.5p.

Bilston & Battersea Enamels, a trinkets maker, climbed 5p to 80p. The shares have advanced from 33p in the past year. After two years of losses the company returned to the black and profits were up 43 per cent to £310,000 in its last year. There is talk the group is

continuing to trade well and could attract a predator.

Revelation, the luggage group was traded at 5.5p in its new slimline form and Prism Rail, shunted on to the market at 100p last month, continued its remarkable headway, hitting 280p with a 55p gain.

Tradepoint, running the rival order-driven share market which has failed to make the progress expected, slumped 5p to 135p. Selling in Vancouver, where Tradepoint was first quoted, was behind the fall. One Canadian stockbroker is thought to be cutting a 300,000 stake and some private investors are thought to be worried by the company's intention to give up its Vancouver quote.

The special dividend shares of News International surged 83p to 291p as the parent News Corporation moved to mop up the minority, offering 1.35 News Corp preferred shares for each special dividend share.

English & National Investment Trust, controlled by Bahamas investor Joseph Lewis, who has nearly 30 per cent of Christmas International, gained 11p to 70p as it took an option from Mr Lewis to buy a 20.1 per cent interest for £6.2m in AutoNomy, which embraces test searching technology. BCF, the computer games group, acquired 8.3 per cent of AutoNomy on Monday. Its shares gained 1p to 20p.

Caired, the waste disposal group valued at around £4m, jumped 47p to 396p following director buying after last week's upbeat trading statement. The shares have gained 140p in a week.

JPPL Therapeutics, producing human proteins from sheep milk, made the expected healthy debut, hitting 500p before settling at 487p from its 450p placing.

Share Price Data

Prices are in sterling except where stated. The world's last year's dividend, granted up to 20 per cent, as a percentage of the share price. The price/earnings (P/E) ratio of the share price divided by last year's earnings per share (excluding exceptional items). Other details: Ex rights & dividends a £1.40 United Securities Market's Standard Index to Parity Point on 1st Jan 1989. Source: FT Information.

The Independent Index

The index allows you to access real-time share prices by phone from Seaq, Equity Ltd (0800 123 123), by the 4-digit code printed next to each share. To access the brief financial reports (see 0800 123 123) by one of the book-kept codes below.

FT-SE 100 - Real-time	00	Starting Rates	04	Pre-emption Issues	30
UK Stock Market Report	01	Bullion Report	05	Water Shares	35
UK Company News	02	Wall St Report	20	Electricity Shares	40
Foreign Exchange	03	Tokyo Market	21	High Street Banks	41

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Market leaders: Top 20 volumes

Stock	Volume	Stock	Volume	Stock	Volume
British Airways	162,000	BT	130,000	Shell	50,000
Harmon	130,000	NFC	80,000	HSBC	50,000
Bank of Scotland	80,000	Clas Walpole	60,000	Anglo Corp	40,000
BT	70,000	Bilston En	40,000	Tarmac	40,000
Smith & Nephew	30,000	Midwest Bank	30,000	Lloyds	20,000

FT-SE 100 index hour by hour

Open 3729.8 up 11	11.00 3729.8 down 19	15.00 3734.1 up 5.3
09.00 3725.0 down 18	12.00 3732.2 up 2.4	16.00 3737.0 up 2.8
10.00 3727.4 down 14	13.00 3731.7 up 2.9	Close 3755.7 up 26.9

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Anyone with a land-line telephone can use

Northern weaned off milk round

THE INVESTMENT COLUMN

EDITED BY TOM STEVENSON

Like its dairy industry counterpart Unigate, Northern Foods has endured a painful restructuring over the last two years as it has come to terms with the decline in doorstep milk deliveries.

It has reduced its bottling capacity by 40 per cent and cut 5,000 jobs, leaving recent profits figures scarred by the resulting charges.

The shares have responded accordingly, falling from 1993's 280p to a low of 166p at the end of last year. Then, just as the company looked like it was out of the woods, along came the BSE scare in March, knocking the shares back down again. Added to these woes has been the continued price pressure from the supermarkets to which Northern Foods supplies a wide range of ready-made meals and liquid milk. Northern's cream was left tasting extremely sour.

But, as with Unigate, which reported figures on Monday, the situation for Northern Foods is gradually improving. Profits for the year to March bounced back from £16m to £119.8m, though the 1995 figures were depressed by £91m of restructuring costs. Stripping out the exceptional, profits from continuing businesses improved by 4 per cent to £124m. The market was encouraged by the chairman Chris Haskins' bullish comments on consumer spending, which gave optimism that this year will be better than expected.

In prepared foods, profit improved by 6.6 per cent to £82.4m, though the BSE scare will knock £4m-£5m off the total in the current year. The best performers were Eden Vale and the cakes, desserts and puddings business. The hot summer dented sales of Fox's biscuits.

In milk, doorstep volumes fell by 12 per cent, which was in line with expectations and better than Unigate's 16 per cent. Supermarket deliveries improved by 11 per cent, though this is a low-margin business.

Northern is hoping that the supermarkets will start easing prices, taking the pressure off the suppliers. But given the grocery retailers' willingness to use volume lines such as bread and milk as loss-leaders, this could be wishful thinking.

Northern is also unhappy about Milk Marque's monopoly position in the milk supply industry. Following the drop in the market price, it seems to be assuming that there will be a cut at the price review next month. If this reduction fails to materialise, Northern's margins will remain under pressure.

The other main concern is Northern's strategy to increase its exposure to the big supermarkets groups, which now account for 60 per cent of group sales in prepared foods. This when most

other food companies are trying to reduce their exposure. BZW is forecasting profits of £130m this year. With the shares up 3p to 194p, they trade on a forward rating of 12. Hold.

East Midlands shows largesse

It is no coincidence that the arrival of Nigel Rudd as chairman of East Midlands Electricity in 1994 saw a sharp turnaround in the regional electricity company's gearing. The Williams Holdings chairman and his management team have presided over a massive £720m transfer of value to shareholders, encompassing special dividends and the distribution of the group's holding in the National Grid, over and above normal dividend payments.

Although this largesse has pushed up gearing to 60 per cent, the group's phenomenal cash flow means it is lower than expected and well below the management's target level of 80 per cent. But the shares slid 12p to 554p

yesterday on disappointment at last year's total dividend increase of 9 per cent (to 31.6p) and comments which appeared to pour further cold water on bid prospects.

Generous by most standards, East Midlands' policy of rewarding shareholders has gone hand in hand with a decision to abandon the original post-privatisation management's diversification policy and concentrate on the core electricity business. The underlying impact of this strategy has been clouded by provisions, exceptional and last year's review of electricity distribution by the industry regulator, Professor Stephen Littlechild. Stripping out the £73.3m contribution from the National Grid from last year's results, East Midlands' profits were flat at £214m. However, the figures were further complicated by the release of an £11.4m restructuring provision and a £20m gain on the disposal of the last of the peripheral operations. Even so, management can be well pleased that it held the fall in operating profits to £189m, down from £208m before, given that the price review cost £31m.

The group has cut prices by 2.7 per

cent this year and will have to find another £30m of savings to offset the regulatory review. But with restructuring provisions of £35m in hand, it is confident there is still plenty to go for on that front. Even so, profits are likely to dip to £190m (from £214m) this year, putting the shares on a forward multiple of seven. The group should be one of the best placed ahead of full deregulation in 1998. Hold.

Amersham sees hope of a cure

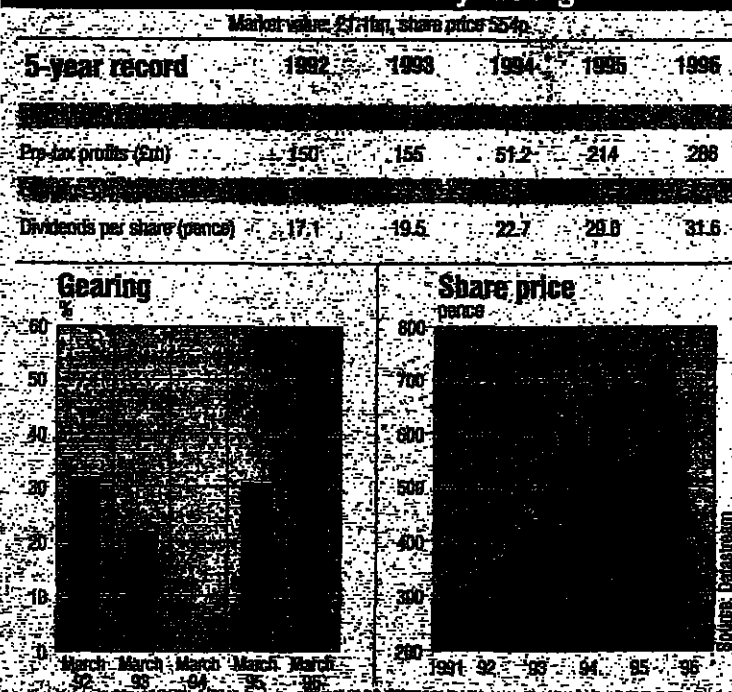
Amersham International, the medical instruments to pharmaceuticals group, seems to have resolved the problems which wiped 7 per cent off its shares when it reported its interim results in November. The most important is there are now clear signs of an end to the malaise in the pharmaceutical industry which has hit sales of Amersham's research and laboratory equipment to the drugs giants.

The change in "tone" in the industry, evident in the second half, is already boosting sales of Amersham's technology and services. Its drug development services, used in testing and screening new pharmaceuticals, and molecular biology, where Amersham leads the market, and genetic sequencing, increasingly used by drugs groups to short-cut the search for new drugs, reported sales growth of between 10 and 17 per cent last year. The improvement helped return Amersham's main life sciences division to growth in the second half. But group profits up from £47.3m to £50.8m owed most of their growth to foreign exchange benefits, which added £4.5m to the bottom line.

Healthcare, the pharmaceutical and diagnostic division, has continued to grow on the back of Amersham's already strong position in nuclear medicine. The main Ceretek brain imaging agent saw sales dip 8 per cent to £22.3m under the onslaught of competition from Du Pont's Neuroline, but Metascan, for pain caused by bone cancer, now sells nearly as well and the hope for the future is Myoview, the heart imaging agent. Amersham will receive a boost to earnings from raising its stake in the Japanese Nihon Medipix to 50 per cent from October and give it a third of the world market for nuclear medicine.

The omens are better than they have been for some time for Amersham, but even profits of £63m this year would put the shares, up 28p to £10.43, on a prospective p/e ratio of 17. Hold.

East Midlands Electricity: at a glance



Dog with a bone shows up at Stock Exchange

CITY DIARY

JOHN WILLCOCK

Michael Marks is sorry to see his colleague Gavin Casey leave the portals of Smith New Court, now under the wing of Merrill Lynch, to take the top job at the Stock Exchange. But Mr Marks thinks Mr Casey will do a good job. "He did a tremendous job for us putting our settlement and IT in order. He's got a great sense of humour, he's like a dog with a bone, he worries at problems until he solves them."

Michael Lawrence, the last incumbent, claims he was ousted by a cabal of market-makers, including Smiths. But Mr Marks insists that Mr Casey is not "the market-makers' man".

"He's an accountant by profession, he came from NatWest, he wasn't involved in that side of the business," says Mr Marks. "The debate has moved on. We're going to have an order-driven system for Footsie 100 companies [something Mr Lawrence was keen on]. It wasn't the change, but the process of change that annoyed people."

When not pulling the Exchange into the modern age, Mr Casey will probably be found at his small cottage in Dorset with his wife and three children. He also enjoys sailing and shooting – "not very well, according to one observer."

The papers may be full of the evils of smoking, but it is still compulsory for all executives of US tobacco giant Phillip Morris to ask for a seat in the smoking section whenever they fly anywhere on company business. Even if the executives involved are non-smokers, which a number of them are. The condition is written into their contracts. Pass the ashtray.

The antics of Paul Gascoigne and his team-mates apart, Euro 96 does not seem to be fostering much Euro-togeth-



When Tom Cruise appears in the soon-to-be-released blockbuster thriller *Mission Impossible*, the big-screen version of the television classic, he will be wearing British suits. Timothy Everest, a contemporary tailor based in Spitalfields, London, has achieved this notable export success. "The person styling Tom Cruise wanted a Nineties interpretation of a Sixties TV show," said Timothy. It was difficult to find anything suitable off-the-peg for the pint-sized thespian, and Timothy supplied him with a "high quality wool pinstripe to produce a three-button, slim-fitted jacket with flat-fronted, slim trousers". One of the biggest problems was supplying replacement trousers – "they were always getting trashed in the stunts".

ermess among the competing teams, at least not in Yorkshire.

Indeed the county is considered something of a culinary disaster area by the Continentals staying there. The Danes, the Spanish, the French and the Portuguese are all steadfastly refusing to eat any British beef.

Only the Bulgarians are tucking into the stuff. Scarborough's town council have paid £25,000 to put the Bulgarians up in a local hotel, and apparently liberation from Communism has given the players an insatiable appetite for meat of all kinds – the more beef the better.

The Portuguese, in contrast, have parked a huge refrigerated truck outside their hotel near Rotherham, in which they keep all the food they'll need during their per-

ilous stay in the UK.

The truck also contains huge amounts of water. Apparently Yorkshire Water's disastrous performance during last year's drought was headline news in Portugal, and the poor chaps are fearful of going thirsty during their stay.

Vic Cocker, the chief executive of Severn Trent who last year told you to conserve water, is ebullient following the company's sparkling results. Observers, noting that Vic's brother is none other than Joe Cocker, the famous singer, are even saying that Severn Trent is finally "up where it belongs".

Joe Cocker was a gasfitter before he became a rock singer in the Sixties – clearly utilities run in the family.

COMPANY RESULTS

	Turnover £	Pre-tax £	EPS	Dividend
Amersham Group (F)	22.9m (13.0m)	3.03m (2.0m)	4.2p (3.5p)	1.4p (-)
Amersham Int (F)	33.1m (29.4m)	50.8m (47.2m)	58.2p (50.5p)	15p (17p)
Babcock Int (F)	72.8m (75.5m)	3.1m (7.8m)	0.47p (3.2p)	3p (2p)
Babcock Group (F)	18.0m (17.2m)	3.37m (3.55m)	3.02p (3.54p)	1.8p (1.5p)
BIS (F)	31.7m (29.4m)	15.1m (14.1m)	37.7p (34.7p)	20.5p (19.5p)
CHL Microsystems (F)	17.3m (19.8m)	1.61m (3.81m)	6.56p (13.7p)	6.1p (6.1p)
East Midlands (F)	1.18m (1.31m)	288m (214m)	186p (78.5p)	31.6p (29p)
First Alliance (F)	71.5m (66.7m)	3.03m (2.21m)	1.4p (1p)	0.4p (0.3p)
Grainham Corp (F)	4.58m (4.80m)	0.71m (0.52m)	1.32p (0.89p)	1p (-)
Great Portland Est (F)	- (-)	47.8m (63.1m)	10.7p (12.7p)	9p (8.75p)
Hammerhead Assets (F)	- (-)	20.1m (18.1m)	62.2p (56p)	45p (45p)
Marshall (F)	22.7m (230m)	25.8m (25.5m)	11.85p (13.5p)	5.2p (5p)
NFC (F)	- (-)	48.1m (34.3m)	4.4p (3.4p)	2.5p (-)
Northern Foods (F)	1.96m (1.97m)	124m (119m)	14.98p (6.1p)	9p (8.8p)
Pulley Perfection (F)	22.0m (14.8m)	1.28m (0.85m)	10.7p (7p)	6.5p (6p)
Thorn EMI (F)	5.55m (4.51m)	478m (271m)	75.5p (61.9p)	40p (36.5p)
Toy Option (F)	17.2m (13.7m)	1.86m (1.20m)	6.38p (5.44p)	1p (0.67p)
Vox Group (F)	18.1m	12.8m (12.0m)	13p (9.4p)	20p (-)

(F) - Full (F) - Interim (M) - Nine months

Severn Trent pipes in £1m a day profits

PATRICK TOOHER

Severn Trent, the Birmingham-based water company that last month told customers to conserve water, ran into fresh controversy yesterday when it unveiled record profits of more than £1m a day.

The company, which last year imposed a hosepipe ban on millions of customers, also promised to pursue a more generous dividend policy by cutting dividend cover from almost three to twice the level of earnings by the year 2000 –

regardless of the outcome of its bid for South West Water.

"We will still have a strong balance sheet whatever happens," said Vic Cocker, chief executive. "But it will be easier to get to two times cover if we buy South West because we expect that deal to enhance earnings."

Severn's bid, and a rival offer for South West from Wessex Water, are being investigated by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. But news that Severn's pre-tax profits soared by 40 per cent to £373m in the year to March provoked an angry response from Clive

Wilkinson, chairman of the industry regulator Ofwat's central customer services committee.

"When customers think of how many of them had periods without water because of poor service they are bound to wonder whether Severn Trent are making extra money by cutting corners in the delivery of their service," he said.

"It seems that the balance between customers' needs and shareholders' needs are not in the right perspective and that the shareholders are getting the better deal."

But Mr Cocker responded by

saying Severn was spending £1m a day on capital expenditure to improve services to customers. He also noted that despite rainfall in the region 70 per cent below the long-term average, the hosepipe ban introduced in August had been lifted at the end of April. "I view that as a vindication of the action we have taken over the winter."

The rate of water leakage fell from 24 per cent to 21 per cent, while measures taken to increase water supply by 5 per cent include plans to use the River Trent as a source of drinking water for the first time.

As a result of these improvements, Mr Cocker remained confident there would be no repeat of the hosepipe ban, even though one reservoir – the Derwent, which supplies Derby – is only 60 per cent full.

Last year Severn's total dividend rose by 12 per cent to 32.4p, covered 2.8 times from earnings per share 10 per cent higher at 89.6p.

Severn has been rumoured as a possible takeover target for electricity generator Powergen, but Mr Cocker denied the more generous dividend policy was defensive in nature.



Keeping cool: Vic Cocker defends Severn's service

2 FOR 1 ODEON CINEMA TICKET OFFER WITH THE INDEPENDENT

To celebrate 100 years of British cinema we have linked up with Odeon Cinemas to offer all readers two tickets for the price of one at participating Odeon Cinemas throughout the UK. Among the films showing are *Primal Fear*, *From Dusk Till Dawn*, *Mr Holland's Opus*, *Muppet Treasure Island*, *Spy Hard*, *The Birdcage*, *Copycat*, *Things To Do In Denver When You're Dead*, *Toy Story*, *Executive Decision* and more.

How to Qualify
The offer is valid until Thursday 13 June 1996. Simply collect three differently numbered tokens from the thirteen we will be printing. Token 12 is printed today; Tokens 13 will be printed in *The Independent* tomorrow. Attach them to our final voucher which is printed today. Then take the voucher to a participating Odeon Cinema to qualify for your free cinema ticket when you purchase another. To find out where your local Odeon Cinema is simply call Talking Pages on 0800 600900.

Now And Then (certificate PG) stars Melanie Griffiths, Demi Moore, Rosie O'Don-

nell and Rita Wilson in a nostalgic and funny portrait of how one Summer set in motion the adult lives of four remarkable women. In 1970 they made a friendship pact as the not-so-innocent world of childhood adventure was cracked by the reality of divorce and the spectre of a 25 year old murder mystery. Now they gather together to solve one final mystery: how the girls they were at 12 could have become the women they are now.

From Dusk Till Dawn (certificate 18), tells the story of the notorious Gecko Brothers (George Clooney & Quentin Tarantino), two of America's most dangerous criminals, on the run from the Texas police and the FBI after a crime spree through the South-west. Also starring are Harvey Keitel and Juliette Lewis.

In Muppet Treasure Island (certificate U), the Muppets are back and ready to cast off and set sail on their zaniest adventure ever, as they encounter pirates, buried treasure and some angry warthogs, in Walt Disney Pictures' all-new, live-action, musical feature.

Spy Hard (certificate PG), stars Leslie Nielsen as Agent WD-40, a.k.a. Steele – Dick Steele in a comedy of high-voltage adventure, high-tech gadgetry and lowbrow humour.

In Toy Story (certificate PG), six year old Andy's toys have a life of their own when left alone. Led by Andy's favourite toy Woody, the fearless pull-string cowboy doll, the toys live a quiet life of dedication to their master. All this is thrown into jeopardy on Andy's birthday, the most dreaded day in the life of a toy, when the fear of being replaced by another toy can become a reality.

Up Close And Personal (certificate 15) stars Michelle Pfeiffer as Tally Atwater, a articulate, sophisticated and charming newscaster. She is a familiar and comforting face to millions of network TV news viewers. Going from small-town weathergirl to prime-time network anchor she was aided and abetted by Warren Justice (Robert Redford) a brilliant older newsmen, her mentor and lover. Their romance is intense and exhilarating yet each breaking story threatens to drive them apart.



Toy Story



Up Close and Personal

ODEON CINEMAS

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- This offer may not be used in conjunction with any other offer or discount.
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- The voucher may not be used for telephone bookings and does not give the holder preference over other customers.
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20
news

Burning issues: Health warnings fall on deaf teenage ears as a generation ignores role models and listens only to its peers

Love is the key to kicking smoking habit

GLENDA COOPER

Young love coupled with price increases is the most effective way of forcing teenagers to quit smoking, new research has found.

Hitting them with health warnings has proved ineffective and most teenagers have "crazy" ideas of the risks they take the Imperial Cancer Research Fund said yesterday.

In a MORI poll of 4,500

schoolchildren aged between 11 and 16 around two-thirds of teenage smokers think the health risks from smoking are not very important despite the fact that one in two teenagers who continue to smoke will die as a result of their habit.

Asked about health risks, teenage smokers saw air pollution as being as dangerous as smoking regularly. Three-quarters of non-smokers, however, saw smoking as a real risk.

A third of teenage smokers also agreed with a statement that smoking cannot be all that dangerous or the Government would ban sports sponsorship by tobacco companies.

"The truth is unless [teenagers] quit smoking about half are going to kill themselves," said Professor Richard Peto, head of the Imperial Cancer Research Fund (ICRF) Cancer Studies Unit at Oxford.

The strongest influence on

quitting was if their girlfriends or boyfriends wanted them to give up. The MORI survey found that four out of 10 smokers would try to give up if their partner wanted them to and nearly one in five would give up if their best friends quit.

Only 4 per cent said they would stop if someone they admired in the public eye told them to.

Nor, in the past, did the smoking-related deaths of

screen idols such as Gary Cooper, John Wayne, Steve McQueen, or, ironically, the man in the advertisement for Marlboro cigarettes, have a lasting effect on smokers' willpower.

Professor Gordon McVie, director general of the Cancer Research Campaign, said that the findings contradicted widely held preconceptions. "A lot of adults believe that young smokers would listen to celebrities' advice on quitting... [but]

love really is the key to getting youngsters to quit," he said.

The other big influence for teenagers is price. More than half the teenagers surveyed said that a substantial increase in the price of cigarettes would discourage them from starting smoking. And 55 per cent of smokers thought increasing the price of cigarettes to £5 for 20 would deter young people.

The ICRF estimates that smoking will kill around one

million of today's teenagers and children in middle age if present smoking trends continue. A further million will die through tobacco in old age.

The charities called for the Government to reconsider banning tobacco advertising yesterday while teenagers claim not to be influenced by advertising. The survey revealed that children do buy and smoke the most heavily advertised brands.

Pamela Furness, the chief

executive of ASH the anti-smoking lobby said. "If the recent rise in teenage smoking is to be reversed it is essential that the Government implements its policy on tax with a comprehensive tobacco advertising ban."

At current UK death rates of a thousand young adults who smoke regularly, one will be murdered, six will die on the roads and 500 will die through tobacco.



John Wayne, actor: Died from smoking-related cancer in 1979



Melina Mercouri, actress: Died of cancer in 1994



Humphrey Bogart, actor: Smoked until his death, of cancer, in 1957

Smouldering appeal of Hollywood chic

WILL BENNETT

For decades cigarettes promoted to young people the perfect image of chic and sophistication - an essential social accessory and an ingredient of many of the greatest scenes in cinema history.

In the Forties Humphrey Bogart and Bette Davis were rarely without a cigarette, in the Fifties James Dean proclaimed it as a symbol of adolescent rebellion and in more recent times Clint Eastwood presided over murder and mayhem in spaghetti westerns with a cheroot clamped firmly between his teeth.

Ultimately the entertainment industry paid a terrible price for this with the list of those who have died from lung or throat cancer reading like a roll of Hollywood greats. John Wayne, Vincent Price, Yul Brynner, Dean Martin, Gary Cooper, Betty Grable and Bogart were all victims.

Ironically Wayne McLaren, the macho rodeo-star-turned-actor who portrayed the Marlboro Man in advertisements for the cigarette brand, also died from lung cancer. He said on his deathbed in 1992 that he was "dying proof that tobacco kills you".

On this side of the Atlantic those who have died from lung cancer have included Pat

Phoenix, one of *Coronation Street's* greatest stars, Melina Mercouri, the Greek film actress, Serge Gainsbourg, the poet-singer, and Roy Castle, not a smoker himself but who inhaled other people's as he played the trumpet in jazz clubs.

In theory the anti-smoking lobby now occupies the high ground in the debate about tobacco. Indeed in some Hollywood restaurants the pendulum has now swung so far the other way that if you light up a cigarette the waiter bangs a gong to warn you to put it out.

But some sections of the population are proving more resistant to giving up smoking than others. According to the Imperial Cancer Research Campaign "the amount of tobacco consumed by women, which decreased in the late 1970s, has started to go up again and female lung cancer is increasing" although some researchers say that they have found no difference between the sexes.

Children are also proving more difficult to persuade not to smoke than adults, probably because health problems caused by cigarettes seem to be light years away, something suffered only by people who to them seem impossibly old.

Peer pressure and family background are factors as is a perception among children that smoking is a grown-up thing to

do. One recent survey among 11- to 15-year-olds showed that 29 per cent viewed it as grown up, 11 per cent thought it was attractive, 7 per cent described as "cool" and 4 per cent as "tough".

Despite all the efforts of health campaigners, some films, television programmes and magazines still portray smoking as stylish. Sharon Stone breathed lingeringly through a cigarette in the film *Basic Instinct*, while Laura Dern did the same in *Wild at Heart*.

A survey for the Health Education Authority showed that in 10 recent films 14 leading characters, four of them women and including both heroes and villains, lit up on 21 occasions. Researchers were concerned that they showed that smoking is a glamorous thing to do, mean, stressed or in the mood for sex.

Other research has shown that 11- to 15-year-olds perceive a quarter of characters in British soap operas as smokers, even though some of them are not, and that compared to Australian soaps they were seen to be pro-smoking.

Magazines also put out mixed messages. Lesline Riley of the HEA said: "Showing pictures of glamorous models smoking next to an article which condemns it actually reinforces the message that smoking is a popular and cool habit."



Lighting up: Only the death of a close relative will stop some youngsters from smoking

Photograph: Tony Buckingham

Young smokers run with the risk of cancer

Claire Garner finds youngsters ignoring the dangers

Of course they could stop smoking if they wanted to. Why should they?

For many pupils at Crofton School, in Lewisham, south-east London, the harmful effects of the habit do not strike a chord. Boredom, peer pressure and a belief that smoking is "no more dangerous than anything else nowadays" mean that, for some, only the death of a close relative would do the trick.

Six-a-day Louise Auguste, 15, smokes because her friends smoke. She thought about giving up once, but to no avail.

"My auntie was in hospital from a collapsed lung. Mum said I should stop smoking be-

cause I might turn out like that. I was scared and told her I was going to give up, but I didn't. It wasn't like dying so I didn't think it was that bad. If someone died in my family I would give up."

But for Michelle Walsh, 15, who switched to Benson and Hedges when she arrived at the mixed comprehensive because everyone else smoked that brand, even a family death didn't make her give up.

"My dad's auntie died of

lung cancer. I was going to give up then but I changed my mind. When I came back to school and saw everyone smoking I thought: 'Oh well, never mind, try again another time.'

And if cigarettes went up to £5 a pack? "I'd be pouncing off everyone else. I certainly wouldn't be buying them myself," said Michelle, who smokes to stay slim. "You can smoke instead of eat," she enthused.

A smoker since the age of 11,

Deborah Holtham, 17, has smoked more in the last year than ever before. "Since it's been legal I've smoked more and my mum knows now so it's easier," she said.

Deborah knows the risks, but reasons: "You could get run over crossing the road."

There are things that are far worse for you, she says, like drugs. "Drugs kill straight away. With smoking it's a gradual thing so you can find out and stop. There's nothing

that would make me give up - unless I found out I'd got lung cancer. If they cost £5 a packet I'd just have to make them last."

To Sam Knight, 14, smoking one cigarette is "like taking a few mouthfuls of the pollution in London on a hot day".

Nathan Wilson, 12, is having none of it. As one of the school's official "peer educators", he preaches the dangers of smoking to his friends, all of whom smoke. And Melissa Sheppard, 12, also a peer educator, is adamant: "If I'm offered a cigarette by friends I say, 'No, I'm just a better person. I'm not that stupid'."

The Independent crossword: sports section, page 12



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Jordan

Dragons, dirges and the cheeseheads going bonkers

BEING THERE



In the first of a series celebrating the big events of the summer, **Jim White** travels to Wembley to witness the opening of Euro 96

Much has been said over the years about England football fans, about their intolerance, their selfishness, their leaden insensitivity. But last Saturday afternoon, at about two o'clock at Wembley Stadium, no one could gainsay their judgement.

For the opening ceremony of Euro 96, a collection of former England players were summoned on to the pitch, in the manner of old champions called into the ring before a Don King promotion, their mere presence hoped to be enough to inspire the boys. There was Stanley Matthews, at 82 looking quicker round Wembley than many of the present team; there was Jimmy Greaves, a man smiling on despite the constant reminder that it is now nearly 30 years to the day since his greatest disappointment: being left out of the World Cup final; and there was Ray Wilkins, the snappiest dresser in football, showing that his time in Milan was spent mainly down the tailors.

Each of them received a warm and rousing welcome, as did every other player who trotted out. Except Emlyn Hughes, who, as he was booed to the rafters, performed a useful function for the first time in his life: he allowed the England crowd to prove one thing about themselves. That they know a prat when they see one.

On Saturday, they had plenty of practice spotting them. At Baker Street station earlier in the day, a dozen Swiss fans, in red shirts, faces painted and wearing baseball caps with large wedges of plastic cheese on the top, bounded on to a train from King's Cross already filled with beery lads from Portsmouth, Reading and Swindon bawling "no surrender to the IRA". For about 10 seconds, there was an odd stand-off as the Swiss climbed aboard, looking nervously at the occupants, until one of the lads started singing "The Birdie Song" by the Smurfs at them. Much guffawing, back-slapping and hand-shaking ensued.

This presumably constitutes a good, old-fashioned, warm English



Enter the dragon: England doing what it's best at - bad pageantry. When Mick Hucknall (left) sang the official anthem, even the Swiss were cheesed off (right)

Photographs: David Ashdown

welcome: citizens of the richest nation on earth mocked as a bunch of gnomes. Not that the Swiss minded, maybe they didn't anticipate anything less while wearing wedges of plastic cheese on their heads.

Scenes like this must have been repeated all over town: the police reported only 15 arrests as the 5,000 Swiss cheerfully accepted the role ascribed to them by the English. The lads assumed the visitors were there to make up the numbers, to lie down in the first game, to give the hosts an easy route to the quarter-finals. No need to be too hard on them, then.

Goodness, once hostilities began in earnest, our boys didn't even boo the Swiss national anthem. Best to save the energy for next week and Scotland, to let the stadium reverberate to "we all hate Jocks and Jocks". It probably wasn't just the police, incidentally, who noticed how badly the segregation had gone awry inside Wembley, how many Swiss were dotted among the English, even among those hard-core nationalists down in front of the Roy-

al Box, who clench their fists in fervent salutes during "God Save The Queen".

But worries like that are for another time. Saturday was for showing the world what England does best: bad pageantry, turgid pomp, rock and polished football. Intriguingly, since England is the nation that also gave the world Pink Floyd, Sat-

urday's was an opening ceremony devoid of hi-tech, lasers or giant inflatables. Perhaps in deference to Europeans who would have been terrified at the prospect of vast British farmyard animals floating across the London sky, instead the performance was all low-tech, flag-waving and pantomime dragons.

In China, small children are sent virtually at birth to schools where they dedicate their lives to the art of holding up coloured cards in breath-stealingly complex patterns at the opening ceremonies of sporting events.

In England, for Euro 96, a few children from local schools were dispatched to their nearest sports shop, decked out in replica kits of the competing nations and told to jog round

and they were booed almost as ferociously as Emlyn Hughes. The booing was particularly intense, venomous even, as the poor, unfortunate ersatz Krauts trotted past the Swiss fans, who had turned one end of the stadium red. In this instance, the Germans are truly the only nation capable of uniting the rest of Europe.

The children dressed as the Germans are probably now in counselling: they were booed almost as ferociously as Emlyn Hughes

the Wembley pitch waving at the crowd.

Hardly inspiring, but this approach was not without its diversions. There was a nice irony in Croatia, for instance, a nation born of ferocious ethnic cleansing, being represented by an entirely Asian school. And the children dressed as Germans are probably now in counselling: their first appearance on a national stage

After the children, after the jousting, after the appearance in the centre circle of a trophy so huge its lid would have been too big even for Alex Ferguson's head, came Mick Hucknall, ploughing his way through his dirge of an official anthem called "We're in this Together". Hucknall was backed up by a gospel choir, 100-strong and looking marvellous in black academic gowns. As a Man-

chester United fan, Hucknall should have known his own choice of outfit would be less effective than theirs: he merged hopelessly into the crowd in a suit of grey. Appropriate, though, for the forgettable aural wallpaper that is his song.

Even the Swiss, who as he began started clapping along with metro-nomic precision, had given up by the end, lulled into sleep by the dullness of it all. They were woken up only by a noisy fly-past by Britain's foremost precision flying corps, which closely followed 16 parachutists tumbling from a flutter of helicopters flapping above the stadium. Simply Red, the Red Arrows, the Red Devils the Swiss must have realised it was their day.

They were not the only ones. From early in the second half it was clear England were a spent force, forlornly booting the ball skywards, perhaps in an attempt to bring down the television airship which was casting irritating shadows on the pitch throughout the match. The crowd, quickly spotting there would be little to distract them on the field, con-

tented themselves with other diversions, such as spotting John Barnes in the television commentary box high up in the stadium roof, easily identifiable by his custard-coloured trousers. How he of all analysts must have empathised, as 11 men in white shirts under-performed beneath his feet.

Afterwards, when it was over, as Gazza, Dazza, Sheri and Platt staggered, exhausted, towards the tunnel, the Swiss players lined up in front of their fans as if they had won the trophy itself, linking hands and taking bows, like divas on a curtain call. In the stands, the bankers in plastic cheese hats went bonkers. That's one great thing about international sport, it always throws up the unexpected: until Saturday, the last term you would use about the Swiss was party animals. Meanwhile, the England lads trooped home to Portsmouth, Reading and Swindon, filling the tubes with the gloom of under-achievement, only occasionally rousing themselves to sing their song of anticipation. "We all hate Jocks and Jocks and Jocks."

Jordan the heart and soul of the Bulls run

Even Leonardo must have torn up the odd canvas in disgust, and presumably Jack Nicklaus at least once in his professional career shot a triple-bogey. So it may yet be that, come tomorrow morning, the Seattle Supersonics are still alive in the National Basketball Association championship, having at last defeated the rampaging Chicago Bulls. But beyond the immediate vicinity of Puget Sound, hardly a soul in America believes it. A 4-0 Chicago sweep is as good as done, and a casebook study in psychological warfare on the basketball court - in any sport, for that matter - is all but over.

For, at least as much as in the heart or even the limbs, this profoundly disappointing series has been won and lost in the mind. Yes, the Bulls may very well be the greatest team in NBA history. Certainly the statistics say so - an unprecedented 72-10 regular season followed, assuming they win tonight, by a 15-1 record in the play-offs and a fourth championship in six years. Yes, Michael Jordan is probably the all-time greatest NBA player (Chicago's city fathers have already so decreed by erecting a stat-

ue to him outside the United Center before the man is even retired, let alone dead). And who else could have reeled off 15 straight points towards the end of the second quarter on Sunday, lifting the Bulls to a 62-38 lead that killed the game?

But the Sonics, possessed of the second-best regular season record, should be nobody's pushover. This ought to have been a sensational series. However, even more than their athletic prowess, what truly sets the Bulls and Jordan apart is their will to win, and the conviction they will do so. This is arrogance, but divine arrogance, the knowledge they will not be - cannot be - denied. Even before the first two games in Chicago (won by the Bulls 107-90 and 92-88) the ferocious hunger for victory was visible. Like a prize fighter who stares down his opponent at the weigh-in, the Bulls showed inferiority in the Sonics before the opening bell. Seattle's Shawn Kemp and Gary Payton are two of the finest young talents around. Thus far they've played like rabbits in front of a cobra.

Not so Jordan, possessed of an extraordinary ability to lift his side's game

SPORT IN ANOTHER COUNTRY

The dominant figure in American sport is in lethal form, reports **Rupert Cornwell**

a gear whenever required. Last Friday the Bulls' Croatian guard, Toni Kukoc, was having a limp, dismal game two when Jordan came over to him. "Are you scared? If you're scared then go sit down." Kukoc exploded for eight points over less than two minutes in the third quarter, enough to swing a tight contest in which the Bulls were way below their best.

Now Chicago are in Seattle for games three and four (and five, should Leonardo spill his paint). In a basketball arena, enclosed and

thunderously noisy, home-court advantage normally means something. But Jordan had that small problem worked out in advance. "Basically, we wanted to take the crowd out of the game, and we did." He kicked the team into overdrive, opening an 18-point lead after 15 minutes, 24 points by the end of the half. From this kind of deficit in basketball, there is as little hope of return as for the football team down 3-0 after half an hour. The crowd might have been at a Beethoven concert. At the final buzzer, Seattle had been washed away, 108-86.

By then it was like a fight which the referee ought to stop, or a wretched afternoon at the corral. A poor-quality bull (no pun intended) has nothing left. Stop the grisly, demeaning charade, the non-afficionado wishes with all his heart. So it was in Seattle on Sunday evening. You almost turned your eyes from the TV screens. By the fourth quarter, Chicago were missing free throws by the handful - but who cared? Jordan was on the bench with a towel slung around his shoulders, grinning and chatting, mission accomplished with

a personal 36 points scored. On court Seattle Phippen, the Bulls' second superstar, was controlling the game effortlessly.

It was left to Dennis Rodman, the third member of the Bulls' trinity of superstars, to play Technicolor maddo. His hair a peacock's tail of blue, green, yellow and orange, the monstrously egotistical Rodman leered, pranced and taunted (as well as making 10 rebounds). Finally, in the middle of the fourth quarter, he goaded Sonics' forward Frank Brickowski to lash out and be ejected from the game. Not that it mattered. The Sonics by then had been pricked, poked and speared into oblivion. Afterwards Rodman sneered that "Seattle is totally out of its rhythm. All they're doing is trying to mess with me, trying to get into my head. They don't understand, you can't mess with the master." The sad thing is that in that innermost recess of the mind, where great athletes draw last and deepest, the Sonics have all along understood the point precisely. You don't mess with the Bulls. That's why this depressing NBA series was over before it began.

SPORTING VERNACULAR

No.1 HAT-TRICK

The history of hat-tricks goes back centuries and could describe any piece of magic involving a hat. In 1886, the *Daily Telegraph* wrote, with reference to an MP: "He may soon acquire the hat-trick and other ways of securing a place." Members of the House of Commons at the time would routinely place their hat on a seat to reserve it.

The hat-trick, in sporting terms, originated in the second half of the 19th century, with the taking of three wickets with successive balls in a game of cricket. The achiever of this feat thus became entitled to a new hat (or some equivalent) at the expense of his club. The term slowly became used to mark a threefold feat in other activities.

The first recorded use of the term was in an 1877 edition of *Cricketers' Companion*, where a player is described as taking six wickets in seven balls. "thus performing the hat-trick successfully". By 1882, it was a

known term but still somewhat rare. A *Telegraph* article of 19 May that year reports: "He thus accomplished the feat known as the 'hat-trick', and was warmly applauded."

The sporting use of hat-trick may have some connection to the invention of the Bowler by a London batter, in 1850, although there is no record that the hat awarded was of any particular type.

Although it is not known why it was specifically a hat that was presented, there has been a tradition of headgear rewards for notable achievements since Roman times, when freed slaves were given a cap to mark their liberty. England footballers are still awarded caps for playing at international level.

The reason why three feats are deemed worthy of special merit is uncertain, though the roots may lie in the special nature of the Holy Trinity in Christianity.

Nick Harris

PLAY FORMULA 1 DREAM TEAM



WIN a drive in a **grand prix car**

Plus prizes to be won with every grand prix



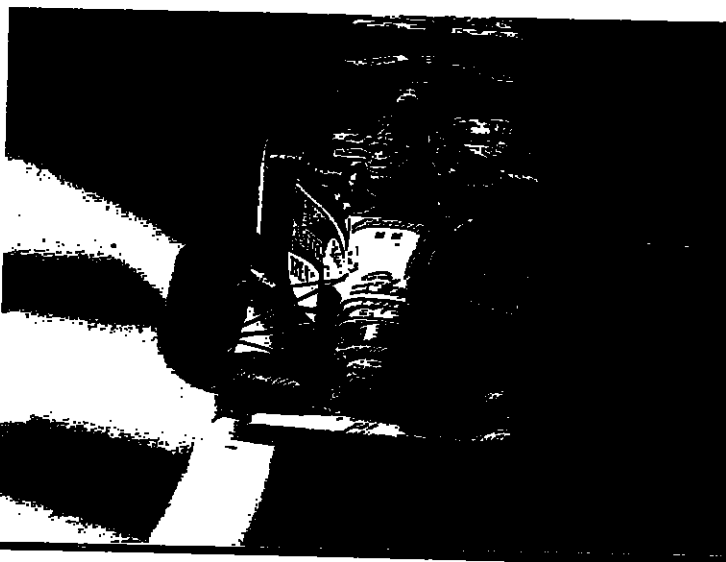
Jos Verstappen
The Flying Dutchman was a sensation in Formula Three racing, and produced remarkably quick lap times in his first Formula One test drive, appropriately enough for Arrows, his current employers. This prompted Benetton to snap him up as team-mate to Michael Schumacher in 1994. A more experienced driver might have thought twice about the offer, as being number two to the German rarely advances a grand prix career. Verstappen had a horrible time, involved in a multiple crash in Brazil and a nasty pit fire in Germany. Chastened, he re-established his reputation with some fine performances for the fledgling Simtek team in 1995, until his luck ran out again along with the team's money. Canally snapped up by Arrows for this year, he has proved good value, and Tom Walkinshaw's take-over of the team can only enhance his career prospects. With luck on his side, one day he will be a grand prix winner.

Formula 1 Dream Team is just like Fantasy Football: you pick and manage your dream grand prix team to score points over the coming season. Even though the grand prix season has started, it is not too late to join in: pit your wits against other enthusiasts and you could win our overall 1996 champion's prize, a drive in a Formula One car plus additional prizes for each race. Your team must comprise three drivers, a chassis and an engine; your budget is £40 million. Make your selections from the grand prix shopping list printed below; the only restriction is that your third driver must come from the £1 million category. Details of how to enter are given on this page. You can enter a team at any point during the grand prix season but the earlier you enter, the greater your chances of being our overall champion. Remember, there are prizes for the winning Dream Team in each individual grand prix so you can enter a different team for each race.

HOW YOU SCORE
Points are awarded per race to the top six finishers, based on the Formula One World Championship points scoring system (10, 6, 4, 3, 2, 1) but with an extra 10 points awarded to each of the top six finishers.

All drivers are eligible to score for a top six finish but can also notch up extra points as follows:

- The fastest driver in race-day warm-up will collect six points, with five for the second and so on down to one point for the sixth quickest.
- Drivers score one point for each place they make up over their grid position. Points are not deducted by losing places.
- Five points are lost if your driver posts first retirement, four for second and down to one point lost for the fifth retirement.
- If your driver makes the quickest pitstop (from the entry of the pitlane to the exit) you gain five points.
- If your driver sets the fastest lap time in the race, you gain five points.
- If your driver receives a stop/go penalty, you lose five points.
- If your driver starts on pole position, you gain five points.
- The Independent will name a Driver of the Day after each race for a particularly impressive performance, worth five points.
- Non-qualification for a grand prix loses you two points. If a driver is on the FIA's published starting grid but fails to take the start, no points are lost.
- Drivers removed from the results for any reason lose all points gained that weekend. Any driver not competing in a grand prix weekend scores no points.
- Chassis score and lose points in the same way as drivers for a top six finish or any early retirement. The score is based on the first chassis home of that particular manufacturer. Likewise, only the first chassis retirement will count if they are both among the first five to retire.
- Engine rules are the same as the chassis rules, without the retirement penalties.



DREAM TEAM TOP PRIZE
The Dream Team manager with the highest number of points at the end of the Grand Prix Championship season will win our top prize - a drive in a 650bhp F1 car.

You will be flown to the AGS team's training school in the south of France for the most exhilarating experience of your life. The school specialises in F1 courses and provides all the racewear and instruction you will need for a day driving F1 and other single seat cars.

CANADIAN GRAND PRIX PRIZE
The Dream Team manager with the highest number of points following the Canadian Grand Prix will win a day out testing with the Tyrrell Formula One team at Silverstone.

HOW TO ENTER

Choose your Dream Team from the shopping list on this page. Remember, you must choose three drivers (the third from the £1 million section), one chassis and one engine. You must not exceed your budget of £40 million.

Give your team a name and register it by ringing 0891 891 805.

You will immediately be asked the entry question: How many races are there in this year's Formula One World Championship?

To enter your Dream Team details you can use one of two methods.

Method 1 uses a tone phone that lets you key in the code numbers of your driver, chassis and engine choices. The computer will check that your team falls within budget and is eligible.

Method 2 uses a non-tone phone and you give your details verbally. A budget check is not possible using this method.

When you have registered your Dream Team, you will be asked to predict the number of points this year's champion will notch up over the year. In case of a tie at the end of the season, the nearest figure to the champion's points will win the top prize. In the event of a further tie, the team that registered first will win.

Once you have registered your team you will be asked for your name, address and telephone number. Your team selections plus your personal details will be played back to you and, when you confirm that they are correct, you will be given a PIN number.

This is confirmation of your entry and will enable you to access the score checking line.

There is no limit on the number of teams an individual can enter, but only one team can be registered per call.

CHECKING YOUR SCORE

You can check your team's position at any time by calling 0891 891 806 and quoting your PIN number. If you want to know the individual driver, chassis and engine scores from the most recent race, call 0891 891 807. This line will also list the Top 50 Formula One Dream Teams.

Rules

1. All telephone calls are charged at 39p per minute cheap rate, 49p per minute at all other times, with a typical call to secure your entry lasting between five and seven minutes.
2. The deadline to be included in a particular race is midday the Friday prior to that race.
3. The judge's decision is final, no correspondence will be entered into and there is no cash alternative for prizes.
4. Employees of Newspaper Publishing Plc, Haymarket Publishing Ltd and all associated companies and their families are ineligible.
5. Entrants must be 18 or over and residents of the UK or the Irish Republic.
6. To be eligible for the main prize, you must hold a current driving licence, be no more than 1.95m tall and weigh no more than 220lbs.
7. All scores will be worked out according to the official FIA time sheets produced at the meeting. The values stated for drivers, engines and chassis bear no relation to real life.
8. In the event of a tie for the Dream Team Top Prize or for any of the individual race prizes, the team that registered first will win.
9. For lost PIN numbers, call 0891 891 808. Helpline: 01275 344183.
10. The Top 50 Teams Line, lists the top 50 teams from the last race. Both the Team Position Check Line and the Results & Top 50 Teams Line will be updated at 2 pm on the Monday following a race.

Make your selection from the Grand Prix

DRIVERS

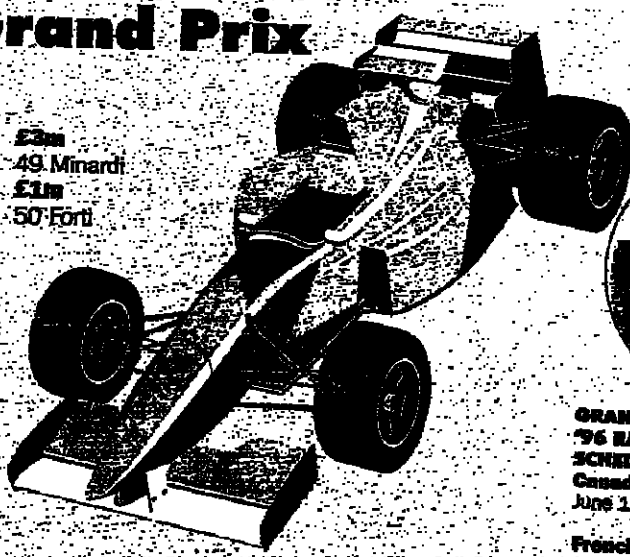
- £25m
- 1 M Schumacher
- £23m
- 2 J Alesi
- 3 D Hill
- £20m
- 4 G Berger
- £18m
- 5 D Coulthard
- 6 E Irvine
- £15m
- 7 J Villeneuve
- £13m
- 8 M Hakkinen
- 9 H H Frenzen
- £10m
- 10 M Brundle
- 11 R Barrichello

- 12 J Herbert
- £8m
- 13 M Sato
- 14 P Larry
- £4m
- 15 P Diniz
- 16 U Katajama
- 17 J Verstappen
- 18 O Panis
- £3m
- 19 L Badoer
- 20 R Rosset
- 21 A Montemini
- 22 G Fisichella
- 23 V Sospini
- 24 T Marques

- 25 F Lagorce*
- 26 H Noda*
- 27 T Inoue*
- £1m
- 28 M Blundell*
- 29 J-C Bouillon*
- 30 K Brack*
- 31 K Butt*
- 32 E Collard*
- 33 N Fontana*
- 34 D Franchitti*
- 35 N Larini*
- 36 J Magnussen*
- 37 A Prost
- 38 G Tarquini*
- 39 K Wendlinger*

CHASSIS

- £20m
- 40 Benetton
- 41 Williams
- £18m
- 42 Ferrari
- £16m
- 43 McLaren
- £14m
- 44 Sauber
- 45 Jordan
- £10m
- 46 Ligier
- £8m
- 47 Tyrrell
- £5m
- 48 Arrows



Shopping List

ENGINE

- £26m
- 51 Renault
- £18m
- 52 Ferrari
- £15m
- 53 Mercedes
- £12m
- 54 Peugeot
- £10m
- 55 Mugen

- £8m
- 56 Ford V10
- £6m
- 57 Yamaha
- £4m
- 58 Hart
- £3m
- 59 Ford Zetec V6
- £2m
- 60 Ford ED V6

GRAND PRIX '96 RACE SCHEDULE
Canadian GP June 16
French GP June 30

British GP
July 14
German GP
July 28
Hungarian GP
August 11

Belgian GP
August 25
Italian GP
September 8
Portuguese GP
September 22

Japanese GP
October 13

DREAM TEAM registration: 0891 891 805 • TEAM POSITION CHECK LINE: 0891 891 806
RESULTS & TOP 50 TEAMS: 0891 891 807

صكنا من الامل

I can't help feeling that both British teams started Euro 96 at 100mph, while the Dutch and others have felt their way in

England's disappointing result against Switzerland will have been well received in one part of the country. At their base in Stratford, the Scotland squad and the coach, Craig Brown, will have been even more heartened by the host nation's weary second-half performance.

A flagging Paul Gascoigne unable to exert any influence after the break will be a tonic to the Scots. They have witnessed at first hand this season the havoc he can wreak on the field. England need Gazza, but anyone who has watched him perform brilliantly for Rangers this year might have spotted his weakness. His game is built on an all-action, nervous energy, which is impossible to sustain for more than 60 games a season with the rigours of a European Championship piled on top.

Terry Venables has to ask himself: can he afford to bank on the former Spurs playmaker being capable of controlling whole games between now and the end of the tournament? The question on everyone else's lips on Saturday involved another Tottenham man. Why did Darren Anderton stay on the field against the Swiss when Steve McNamara, obviously having a far better game, was substituted? Anderton will play a big part in the medium and long term, but on Saturday he looked like a player coming back from injury. His timing was a fraction of a second out and his spatial awareness not yet back to its peak. These are crucial areas for this type of player: that is why he was robbed of the ball on occasions when he would normally have no trouble.

Taking off the Liverpool player was a shock. Kevin Keegan, commenting on ITV, could only guess that Venables was resting McNamara. When you are playing well, managing to isolate the full-back, and you know you have the beating of him, you are in heaven. You know, and the defender knows, that, as the game wears on, his tactics will get lazier and more rash. Success is just a matter of time. Unless he is injured or had indicated exhaustion to the manager, he will have come off bewildered and not a little miffed.

On Monday morning the Scotland team will have tucked into their porridge in a positive frame of mind. England had not been inspiring and it also looked like the best time in years to take on the Dutch. Their captain, Danny Blind, was suspended,



COMMENTARY
PAT NEVIN

Patrick Kluyvert not fully fit, and both Frank de Boer and Marc Overmars injured and out of the squad. On top of this, most of the team came from Ajax, who looked jaded by their stan-

dards in their last games. Their long injury list bore testimony to this.

Craig Brown began to look more relaxed and the feeling in the camp was almost certainly: "Hey, wait a minute, we've got a wee chance here." Both Dennis Bergkamp and the coach, Guus Hiddink, confessed to being wary of the Scots' passion, and this was probably just the spur the lads needed.

Brown kept the ball rolling by picking a team with three recognised forwards in Gordon Durie, Scott Booth and Kevin Gallacher. This surprised everyone but it was not as adventurous as it sounds, with at any time two of the three dropping back to make a five-man midfield.

If ever a game went to plan, this was it. There will be a little glow around Craig Brown just now, as he

knows his tactics proved to be perfect. Scotland took the punches on the ropes, but ducked and dived and rode their luck enough to avoid a knock-out. They even managed a few decent jabs of their own, but at what price for the next bout?

The Scottish pressing game was exhausting, especially for the midfielders and forwards, thanklessly chasing lost causes. Gary McAllister played right-back, left-wing and everything in between. John Collins and Stuart McCall tackled relentlessly, while Durie will probably need oxygen for the next couple of days. There is some comfort in that England's best did not exactly look sprightly in their second half.

The Scottish terrier style will also be costly in yellow cards. This

is concerning when there is scarcely a player in the starting XI they can do without. I can't help feeling that both British teams started the competition at 100mph, while the Dutch and others have felt their way in. Immediately after the Scotland game we watched France v Romania, it was slower and more measured, indeed it looked dull in comparison.

The only way Scotland can survive is at full throttle all the way. Grantie, Continental sides are at the end of their seasons too, but none will have played as many fast and physical games as we have in the last nine months. This does not bode well for our chances in this tournament, or indeed any other. In the meantime, though, Scottish passion may continue to grind out results.

Vlaovic exploits Croatia's creativity

GUY HODGSON

reports from the City Ground
Turkey
Croatia

It was a big night for Croatia no matter what the result. A new nation, it was their first match at a major international final, and they would have wished it even if they had lost. How enjoyable it was for them, then, that they emerged with a victory to take them to the group of Group D.

The goal that announced their arrival at Euro 96 arrived five minutes from the end. Goran Vlaovic received the ball on the half-way line, swept past a defender and then rounded the goalkeeper before passing into the net. It was a brilliant goal in an otherwise mundane match. Not that they will worry about that in Zagreb.

It was a historic moment for Croatia but it was a significant match, too, for Turkey who were also playing in their first European Championship final. Once the sick men of Europe, just to be in England was achievement in itself as their only previous encounter with the international big time was in 1954 World Cup in Switzerland.

The Turkish supporters have embraced the occasion like no others to date, trying their best to make Nottingham a second Istanbul, and the City Ground was ringing with their chants several hours before the start. "I'm not going over Trent Bridge" one taxi-driver said to a prospective passenger who reasoned it could not be more congested than for a cricket Test match. "It's far, far worse," he replied. "It's bedlam."

The man the Turks came to applaud was the coach, Fatih Terim, who turned the team from cannon fodder into finalists. Ninety minutes before the kick-off he took to the pitch and received a welcome that the winning manager at Wembley on 30 June would be happy to accept. Only Brian Clough, who suspect, has had a better reception at the City Ground.

Croatia have built an awesome reputation for a fledgling nation that stems largely from



Croatia's Alen Boksic is poleaxed by Turkey midfielder Vedat Inceefe at the City Ground last night

Photograph: Matthew Ashton/Empics

their defeat of Italy in Sicily in their qualifying group. Their preparation for Euro 96 was also impressive, with four wins and two draws en route to Nottingham.

The Croatians have the pedigree, albeit recently acquired, but it was not obviously apparent in a first half that was shared equally. The Turks had less of the possession yet their counter-attacks, frequently led by Ogün Temizkanoglu, still carried a threat.

After six minutes Seren Yalcin was just over with a volley from Hakan's Sükrü's

knock-down and four minutes later the Croats were grateful to Nikola Jerkan, as he intercepted Ogün's cross that was heading towards Hakan.

The Croats' build-up was slower and more precise, much of it flowing through Zvonimir Boban. The Milan midfielder is reported to have interested

Alex Ferguson, and the Manchester United manager would not have been put off by the cultured way he dictated the tempo.

The best chance before the interval came after 25 minutes, when Devor Suker strayed to the right wing and took his marker with him. The cross came over and Alen Boksic, filled the gap heading over from the penalty spot when he should have at least hit the target.

The Croats began the second half at a greater pace, although they looked no nearer finding

a way through the Turkish defence than they had beforehand. Boban made several dangerous driving runs into the area, but the final pass failed to locate him and it was possibly indicative of a mounting frustration when he was booked after 54 minutes. Two minutes later, the Croat captain was substituted.

The Turks still looked lively and Hakan was just inches away from getting his head to Seren's free kick after 63 minutes. Then Seren himself was narrowly wide with a volley three minutes later.

At the moment he handled Clarence Seedorf's shot, struggled to keep a straight face as he replied: "My job at set-pieces is to protect the back post. That's exactly what I did."

Andy Gorman interjected to suggest that Collins, a Catholic, might feel the need to go to confession. At which point Brown took the opportunity to praise his goalkeeper: "I'm bound to say that Andy would have saved the penalty anyway."

On a more serious note, he started the game of tactical cat and mouse with his English counterpart, Terry Venables, by

intimating that he had already decided whether to stick with Monday's 4-4-2 formation or revert to his customary 3-5-2. Since England, like the Dutch, use wide attackers, it could well be the former, although Brown stressed that no back four of his would ever be "flat".

The word is equally inapplicable in relation to Scotland's followers, into whose devotion Brown gained a fresh insight when a fan stopped him as he left the Villa Park pitch. "He said to me: 'I'm in disgrace - I've missed my son's wedding to come to the game.'"

euro-spy

EDITED BY RUPERT METCALF

Late developer erases the doubts

A year ago he was little more than a journeyman footballer with a famous father. Having spent five years enjoying modest success with Monaco, Youri Djorkaeff had reached the fringes of the French national team. Any indication that his international career would eclipse that of his father Jean, who in the 1960s captained his country and won 48 caps.



MAN ON THE SPOT
Youri Djorkaeff

Djorkaeff Jr's move to Paris St-Germain 12 months ago changed all that. He had a splendid season in the French capital, quickly established himself at international level as a crucial member of Aimé Jacquet's team and, by the end of the campaign, had earned himself a £4m move to Internazionale.

Euro 96 had its first sight of Djorkaeff on Monday, when he was man of the match in France's 1-0 victory over Romania in Newcastle. Playing just in front of the midfield and

behind the striker Christophe Dugarry, who scored the game's only goal, Djorkaeff showed all the qualities that made him such a favourite with the Parc des Princes crowd: deft touches on the ball and the ability to run at and beat retreating defenders.

Any modern-day French midfielder of any quality quickly finds himself mentioned in the same breath as Michel Platini, who led his country to the 1984 European Championship. However, having scored 10 goals in his first 17 matches for France, Djorkaeff has a better strike rate at this stage of his international career than either Platini or Eric Cantona. He scored several vital goals in the qualification games for Euro 96, and recalls one with particular affection - a free-kick that earned a draw against Poland last summer. "That goal changed everything," he said. "That day I overcame the coach's doubts."

Paul Newman

EURO 96 RIP-OFFS No 3: Aston Villa leisure centre car park: normally £3, on Monday £5. Have you come across any monster rip-offs? If so, fax details to Euro-spy on 0171 293 2894.

'Scalping' exposed at Villa Park

The new agency Associated Press can always be relied upon to provide a peculiarly American perspective on what we call "football" and they call "soccer" - its reports on matches played in the States can often read like descriptions of a totally different sport.

An AP writer at Scotland's draw with the Netherlands at Villa Park on Monday seemed impressed by the fans' conduct. "After all-night partying, only 10 fans had been arrested for minor offences [sic] such as public drunkenness and scalping," he wrote, conjuring images of marauding Scottish Braveheart impersonators rearing orange-dyed hair by force. The truth, though, is less exotic: "scalping" means ticket touting Stateside...

Russian fans cry foul at visa chaos

Not all the Russian fans who travelled to England actually reached Anfield for their opening fixture against Italy yesterday. It seems that hundreds of Russians who bought tickets for their three Group C fixtures have been refused visas.

Vladimir Modelevsky, who was on the cruise ship *Asra*, which sailed to Liverpool from Kaliningrad, has managed to bring with him just three of 35 fans who had paid to join his tour group. "Why on earth did England agree to host the Championship if all it wanted to do was turn away foreign fans? All we wanted to do was watch the soccer but they treated us like criminals," he said. "The truth, though, is less exotic: 'scalping' means ticket touting Stateside..."

FOOTBALL: THE UNIVERSAL LANGUAGE

"Türk takimi acaba niçin sahada üçgen gibi diziiliyor?" ... which is Turkish for: "Why don't Turkey use the Christmas tree formation?"

Bulgaria not happy beside the seaside

Bulgaria are threatening to leave their training camp near Scarborough, because they are unhappy that there is little to do at their Ravenscar Hotel on the Yorkshire coast, and also because of the travelling time involved from their base.

The Bulgarians faced a 90-minute journey to Leeds for their opening game on Sunday and their final two matches on Newcastle will mean a journey time of about two hours. They have a match there against Romania tomorrow in Group B followed by a game with France on Tuesday.

The squad will travel to Newcastle tomorrow and the Reading goalkeeper Bobby Michailov said: "We would like to stay there. The players are unhappy and have approached the management about it."

"We don't have a problem with Scarborough. It is just too quiet and there are not many facilities at the hotel. The players can play snooker, table tennis and golf, but that is all. We have to go far to travel for matches and I would say there is a good chance of us staying in Newcastle."

"Perhaps we will have a problem finding a suitable hotel and training facilities, but that is a problem our football federation will have to solve."

Brown sticks to long-term view

PHIL SHAW

After shrewdly lowering expectations before the finals, Craig Brown felt obliged yesterday to caution Scotland supporters against over-confidence prior to Saturday's renewal of their old acquaintance with England at Wembley.

Monday's encouraging stalemate with the Netherlands, who were second favourites to win the tournament, had the Scottish fans in Birmingham chanting: "Bring on the English." Brown, determined to

keep his players focused on the "big picture" of qualification from Group A, pleaded for a sense of proportion.

"The danger now is that people will think we can go to Wembley and win automatically," the Scotland manager said. "Everyone in the camp is aware that all we've done is draw our first match and give ourselves a start. It's kept the section wide open. We were considered underdogs, but we never felt we were."

In his next breath, however, Brown claimed that Scotland were still underdogs against England: "We're happy for it to

remain that way. But once the match starts the psychology won't come into it. It'll be the footballing advantage that counts. We think we can play better than we did against the Dutch. I've watched the tape and there were 20 minutes at the end of the first half when we showed what we're capable of. The overall performance was like a club side: Club Scotland."

The relaxed, jovial atmosphere of Scotland's press conferences has been in marked contrast with the mutual antipathy at England's gatherings. John Collins, asked about

the moment he handled Clarence Seedorf's shot, struggled to keep a straight face as he replied: "My job at set-pieces is to protect the back post. That's exactly what I did."

Andy Gorman interjected to suggest that Collins, a Catholic, might feel the need to go to confession. At which point Brown took the opportunity to praise his goalkeeper: "I'm bound to say that Andy would have saved the penalty anyway."

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EURO 96										
Group A										
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts			
England	3	0	1	0	1	1	1			
Switzerland	3	0	1	0	1	1	1			
Netherlands	3	0	1	0	1	1	1			
Scotland	3	0	1	0	1	1	1			
RESULTS: England 1, Switzerland 1; Netherlands 0, Scotland 0										
REMAINING FIXTURES: Tomorrow: Switzerland v Netherlands (7.30) (at Villa Park); Sat 15 June: Scotland v England (2.00) (at Wembley); Tue 18 June: Scotland v Switzerland (7.30) (at Villa Park); England v Netherlands (7.30) (at Wembley).										
Group B										
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts			
France	3	0	1	0	1	0	3			
Belgium	3	0	1	0	1	0	3			
Denmark	3	0	1	0	1	0	3			
Romania	3	0	1	0	1	0	3			
RESULTS: Spain 1, Romania 0; France 0, Belgium 0										
REMAINING FIXTURES: Tomorrow: Belgium v Romania (4.30) (at St James' Park); Sat 15 June: France v Spain (6.00) (at Villa Park); Tue 18 June: France v Belgium (7.30) (at Villa Park); Belgium v Romania (7.30) (at Wembley).										
Group C										
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts			
Germany	3	0	1	0	2	0	3			
Italy	3	0	1	0	2	1	3			
Spain	3	0	1	0	2	1	3			
Denmark	3	0	1	0	2	1	3			
RESULTS: Germany 2, Czech Republic 0; Italy 1, Spain 0										
REMAINING FIXTURES: Fri 14 June: Italy v Czech Republic (7.30) (at Wembley); Sat 15 June: Germany v Russia (5.00) (at Old Trafford); Tue 18 June: Czech Republic v Russia (7.30) (at Anfield); Italy v Germany (7.30) (at Old Trafford).										
Group D										
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts			
Croatia	3	0	1	0	1	0	3			
Denmark	3	0	1	0	1	1	3			
Portugal	3	0	1	0	1	1	3			
Turkey	3	0	1	0	1	1	3			
RESULTS: Croatia 1, Portugal 0; Denmark 1, Turkey 0										
REMAINING FIXTURES: Fri 14 June: Portugal v Turkey (4.30) (at the City Ground); Sat 15 June: Croatia v Denmark (6.00) (at Hillsborough); Wed 19 June: Croatia v Portugal (4.30) (at the City Ground); Turkey v Denmark (4.30) (at Hillsborough).										
Group E										
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts			
Sweden	3	0	1	0	1	0	3			
Spain	3	0	1	0	1	0	3			
Belgium	3	0	1	0	1	0	3			
Romania	3	0	1	0	1	0	3			
RESULTS: Spain 1, Romania 0; Sweden 0, Belgium 0										
REMAINING FIXTURES: Fri 14 June: Spain v Belgium (4.30) (at St James' Park); Sat 15 June: France v Spain (6.00) (at Villa Park); Tue 18 June: France v Belgium (7.30) (at Villa Park); Belgium v Romania (7.30) (at Wembley).										
Group F										
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts			
France	3	0	1	0	1	0	3			
Belgium	3	0	1	0	1	0	3			
Denmark	3	0	1	0	1	0	3			
Romania	3	0	1	0	1	0	3			
RESULTS: Spain 1, Romania 0; France 0, Belgium 0										
REMAINING FIXTURES: Tomorrow: Belgium v Romania (4.30) (at St James' Park); Sat 15 June: France v Spain (6.00) (at Villa Park); Tue 18 June: France v Belgium (7.30) (at Villa Park); Belgium v Romania (7.30) (at Wembley).										

Blind back to bolster 'brainless' Dutch

The influential defender Danny Blind will be welcomed back by the Netherlands when they face Switzerland in their second match of Euro 96 tomorrow.

Blind was ruled out of Sunday's 0-0 Group A draw with Scotland through suspension, and he was sorely missed. "We played too much with our heart, but didn't use our brains," their coach, Guus Hiddink, said yesterday. "With Blind we will have the experience to bring calm to our play."

The Dutch coach again criticised the Swedish referee, Leif Sundell, for denying his side an early penalty after John Collins blocked a shot with his hands. "The referee was unable to see it from where he stood. It was a big, big mistake," Hiddink said.

The Dutch coach stressed that Switzerland should not be underestimated. "Swiss club football has developed tremendously. The national team, too, has caught up with the major European countries," he said.

He is expected to leave Arsenal's Dennis Bergkamp in the team despite his disappointing performance against the Scots but he may decide to bring in the left-winger Peter Hoekstra, who has recovered from injury, and switch Jordi Cruyff to the right wing at the expense of Gaston Taument.

Dusan Uhrin, the Czech Republic coach, has promised changes for his team's game on Friday against Italy, 2-1 winners over Russia yesterday. Patrik Berger, the leading goalscorer in the qualifiers who was not introduced until half-time of the

2-0 defeat by Germany on Sunday, seems likely to start.

Uhrin, meanwhile, has expressed his dissatisfaction with the way England's David Elleray refereed the game against Germany, when 10 players were booked. "I think the yellow cards reflected the performance of the referee," Uhrin said.

"At first he let things go and I was surprised by the roughness which was allowed to happen. Then he wanted to make up for it. I was disappointed with him."

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6 coming soon...

Old guard put on their Olympic mettle

At the first Amateur Athletic Association Championships in 1880, the opening event, the mile, drew just one competitor. Then 21, Walter George – the greatest middle-distance runner of his era – was said to have run 4min 20sec in training, nearly five seconds faster than the amateur record. The rumours were enough to discourage all potential opponents, and thus when the frock-coated, silk-hatted starter fired his pistol, only George was there to respond. One hundred and sixteen years on, the championships that start at Birmingham's Alexander Stadium on Friday form the pivotal point of the Olympic season for Britain's athletes. They double up as trials at which places for Atlanta go automatically

to the first two in each event. There is one other discretionary place in each event. Roger Black, who will take part in a 400m that promises to be the most cut-throat of all the events this weekend, uses a footballing analogy to emphasise the importance of the championships. "There are a lot of athletics meetings to a season that don't really matter," he says. "But this is like England v Switzerland. It matters." And just as England's footballers discovered, the real thing can be unpredictable, debilitating and disorientating. Last year's decision to grant automatic places to the first two in each trial event rather than solely the winner has added an element of drama to the weekend's action.

The AAA championships will have an added sting for athletes this weekend, says Mike Rowbottom

Someone, somewhere is going to be elated. Someone, somewhere is going to see the bottom drop out of their world. The British Athletic Federation had more than one reason to alter its policy. The format is more attractive to spectators and makes absenteeism – which marred last year's trials so badly – too dangerous an option for most athletes to contemplate. But the federation has wisely resisted any impulse to follow the American example of picking the first three past the post. According to a poll conducted by Black

and the high jumper Geoff Parsons, most British athletes welcomed the new format. And an uneasiness at being obliged to run their specialist events when they turn up has been counter-balanced by relief that these championships will be closed. The prospect of British runners having to chase home accomplished Kenyan middle-distance runners in a desperate attempt to reach their finals has been banished. Despite all this, a handful of Britain's best athletes may be forced to miss the championships because of injury. Steve Back-

ley, javelin silver medalist at last year's World Championships, is recovering from Achilles tendon surgery; and Jonathan Edwards, Britain's most obvious hope for an Olympic gold medal, has pulled out with a heel injury aggravated in winning at the Rome Grand Prix last Wednesday. Linford Christie, who will have to announce whether he intends to defend his Olympic 100m title before selectors announce their team on Monday morning, runs only at that event in Birmingham. Assuming he finishes in the first two places, Christie will collect his flowers, do a lap of honour and then trot over to the BBC cameras to announce... surely, that he will go to Atlanta.

Our other Olympic champion, Sally Gunnell, is in no doubt about wanting to defend her 400m hurdles title, but after mixed experiences since coming back from long-term injury this season she is still uncertain about her capabilities. Unlike previous trials, where she has been happy to do the high hurdles, she needs hurdlings practice in her main event. Britain's 110m hurdles world record Colin Jackson is similarly up against it after four defeats in the space of 10 days. His hurdling rhythm is out, and he is suffering tendinitis in his right knee. All in all, these championships, with their edge restored, feel very different to those of last year.

He is 30 years old, he has had four operations and a serious viral illness, but Roger Black is still ready to run the race of his life. Interview by Mike Rowbottom

When Roger Black finally retires from athletics, a career as a motivational speaker beckons. His competitive career, with its bewildering flux of glory and injury, has provided him with a rich seam to mine for the edification of fellow strivers in the sporting or business worlds. What experience he has had of public speaking convinces him that his future could lie in that direction. "Ironically," he said, "my problems have given me a very good story to tell that seems to go down very well." Watching Black take his place at the combined AAA Championships and Olympic trials this weekend, in what promises to be the greatest 400 metres event in the competition's history, will afford athletics aficionados enormous pleasures. At 30, after four operations and a debilitating viral illness, Britain's pre-eminent one-lap runner of the last decade has re-established himself as the one the others have to watch. And this in a year when British 400m running has an unprecedented strength in depth, with nearly a dozen men in contention for the three individual Olympic places, six of whom have run faster than 45 seconds. "There has been nothing like it in any of the AAAs I have run," said Black, whose first two races this season, in Atlanta and Eugene, have yielded times of 44.81sec and 44.77. "I get a lot of satisfaction from my current situation," he added. "I'm proud that I'm 30 and running the best I've ever run. Despite all the setbacks I've had, I'm still doing it." When Black started out in athletics as a callow, converted rugby player, he was known joshingly as "Bambi" – the runner whose legs went wobbly. At 6ft 2in, and with classic, blond English good looks, his effect on the female population soon prompted his training partner Kris Akabusi to call him "Sex on Legs", a phrase which stuck. But the circumstances and trials of the last few years have turned Bambi into a far more serious, sure-footed character. Black's international career began perfectly – individual and relay gold in the 1985 European junior championships, two more golds at the 1986 Commonwealth Games and European Championships and, just for extras, a British record of 44.59. At 20, he seemed big and strong and talented enough to ride any challenge. But he wasn't. Soon he began to encounter the injuries which go with the territory of one-lap running, missing the 1987 World Championships and 1988 Olympics.



Sitting pretty: Roger Black, Britain's leading 400m runner, relaxing at home before the Olympic trials in Birmingham this weekend

Photograph: Robert Hallam

The happiest of returns for the one-lap wonder

Olympics and run well. "I have never had a good Olympics," he said. "I missed '88, and even though I ran 44.71 in 1992 I walked away not enjoying it. I said to myself: 'I really want to walk away from the Olympics happy, because that's what the Olympics should be about.' Since I came back in '94, everything has been geared towards that." To that end, despite equalling his best of 44.59 last year, he took the risk of putting this season in jeopardy when he underwent an operation before Christmas to remove a torn cartilage from his knee. The Swiss surgeon Roland Bleden had been recommended to him by Sally Gunnell, but he knew he was still taking a risk. "It was a dodgy operation," he said. "I could not be sure it was going to work. When you can run in pain and still do pretty well, it is a hard thing to judge, and it was one of the big decisions in my life. But now I am running without pain for the first time in nine years, and that is a wonderful feeling. I can tell you." Not all of his domestic rivals will arrive

in Birmingham this weekend in the same happy position, but at least they will all be there – because they know they have to be, given the level of competition. Black views Britain's current glut of 400m talent as "a cynical thing". But he points to Britain's record in the European junior championships, where he, David Grindley,

He himself has played his part, setting high standards in the event for 10 years. "People in this country have always known that if they were going to make it in the 400, they would have to run fast. Now we have six people who could beat 45 seconds this weekend. But let's be realistic. If you can't do that, you are not world class."

'I am proud that I'm 30 years old and running the best I have ever run – despite all the setbacks, I am still doing it'

Guy Bullock and Mark Hylton have contributed to a run of six successive 400m titles, as evidence of a continuing tradition of success. "Success breeds success," he added. "I also think our relay win in the '91 World Championships had a big impact. I think a lot of people will have thought: 'That looks like a lot of fun. I'll have a go at that.'"

Michael Johnson runs 43.50. Enough said." Black believes the 400m event has changed significantly in the last two or three years, becoming more sprint based. Accordingly, he has worked this winter at lowering his 200m best. And when he assesses his domestic rivals in Birmingham, the first man he picks out is a converted sprinter, Wales's 23-year-

old Jamie Baulch, who lowered his 400m best to 44.97 last Friday. Baulch and his fellow Welshman Iwan Thomas, who ran 44.66 at altitude in South Africa earlier this year, are the two runners Black is taking most notice of at the moment, despite Du'Aine Ladejo's prediction that he will win the final in a time around 44.80. "Anyone can talk it," Black said. "You have got to perform it. And this season, Jamie and Iwan have performed. But there will be a lot of side bets on the 1-2-3, and I couldn't call it at all. Whatever happens, though, there will be surprises." Whether this current domestic 400m strength can prove a foundation for even greater international success depends, Black believes, on whether one or more runners can make the breakthrough of running sub-44sec. "I regard myself as a world-class runner, but I am no Linford Christie," he said. "For the event in this country to reach a new level, we need someone running a seriously fast time or winning a seriously big medal, such as the world or Olympic title."

"I hope it's me," he said. "But if not it has to be one of these other new guys." Retirement is something Black has had to think seriously about more than once. But not, thankfully, at the moment. "One more major injury and then I'd stop," he said. "But if I'm running 44.5 and still enjoying the sport, I could go for another four years. A few years ago that really wasn't the case. There was a period when I thought 'sod this'. But I would love to win the European Championships for a third time..." If ever Black needs encouragement to carry on what he describes as his "road full of obstacles", he needs only to think of his recent training sessions in Irvine, California, with his friend Jon Ridgeon, who has made his third comeback this year after Achilles tendon injuries which have required four operations. "Every day, without fail, however hard the session, Jon would say: 'This is great. He's just an inspiration. He makes you realise you have to make the most of this life. Because' – he added with a chuckle – "the real world sucks, you know."

EIGHT INTO THREE WON'T GO: WHY THE 400 METRES WILL BE THE BEST RACE OF THE OLYMPIC TRIALS



ROGER BLACK
Age: 30. Personal best: 44.59 (1986, 1995). 1996 pb: 44.71. First man to win European 400m title twice (1986 and 1990). Silver behind Du'Aine Ladejo in 94. World silver medalist and relay gold medalist in 1991. Has won 10 gold medals including relays. Career punctuated by injuries – 87, 88, 92 – and illness – Epstein Barr virus named his '93. Knee cartilage operation last December. Now running as well as ever.
Brum rating: *****



DU'AINE LADEJO
25. Pbt: 44.94 (94). 1996 pb: 45.57. Beat Black to the 1994 European title, having broken through with European indoor title earlier that year. Retained indoor title this March. At high school and university in United States before returning to Britain in '92 and earning a bronze with the Olympic relay team. High profile – has hosted own feature show on ITV called Du'Aine's World.
Brum rating: ****



MARK RICHARDSON
23. Pbt: 44.81. 1996 pb: 45.72. Fourth in the World Junior Championships at just 16, he fulfilled his potential last season after two years of illness and injury, winning the European Cup final and finishing fifth in the World Championship final. Degree in sports science from Loughborough University. Patchy form this season, now troubled with food poisoning picked up in Rome last week.
Brum rating: **



JAMIE BAULCH
23. Pbt: 44.97. 1996 pb: 44.97. Blond, dreadlocked Welshman. Won gold with British relay team at '92 World Junior Championships. Has made rapid progress since switching from sprints last season. Ran 45.14 last season, beating Roger Black at Gateshead, and reduced that to his current personal best at Nuremberg last Friday. Coached by Colin Jackson.
Brum rating: ****



IWAN THOMAS
22. Pbt: 44.66. 1996 pb: 44.66 (at altitude). Ginger-haired Welshman. Coached in Southampton by Mike Smith, who orchestrated Roger Black and Kris Akabusi's early careers. As a boy he was the 4th best BMX rider in Europe. Ran 47.37 in first year at 400 (1992). Had an impressive series of races in South Africa early this year. Beaten by Black in the Atlanta grand prix last month.
Brum rating: ****



DAVID GRINDLEY
23. Pbt: 44.43 (UK rec, 1992). 1996 pb: 45.66. Surprised everyone in '92 by qualifying for the Olympics with Black and Derek Redmond. He then set the British record before finishing sixth in the final – and still at 13. Won Grand Prix final in 1993, but Achilles injuries were nearly two years out before this season's comeback. Former rugby league player.
Brum rating: ***



MARK HYLTON
19. Pbt: 45.83. 1996 pb: 46.39. Became Britain's sixth consecutive European junior 400m champion last year, following in the line of Black, Grindley et al. Trains with Richardson at Windsor and Eton under direction of Martin Watkins. AAA indoor champion in '95 and '96, but suffered groin injury after last title. Relatively small, gave up football for athletics – played for Slough Town youth team.
Brum rating: **



ADRIAN PATRICK
22. Pbt: 45.63. 1996 pb: 46.29. Made the World Championship relay squad last year under the direction of Ron Roddard, Linford Christie's coach. A sprinter who has moved up to good effect.
Brum rating: **

OTHERS TO WATCH OUT FOR:
Guy Bullock, European junior champion... David Nolan, 27-year-old Army man who set 46.20 pb this season... David Mackenzie... Jared Deacon.

سكنا من الامل

British athletics Olympic trials: an event-by-event form guide

EVENT	OLYMPIC QUALIFYING TIME	MAIN CONTENDERS (with '96 personal best)
100m	20.34sec	L Christie (20.04), D Campbell (20.17), J Jones (20.38), D Balfour (20.14), I Williams (20.39), I Mackie (20.34)
Christie will be favourite - he has won a record seven times. Although not at his best, he is still a threat to anyone, which should convince him to contest the trials. The other two places will be hotly contested. Balfour, the 1995 champion, will be heavily beaten by Campbell, once considered the next Christie.		
200m	20.84sec	L Christie (20.29), J Page (20.47), D Balfour (20.07), D Turner (20.43), S Westo (20.64), I Mackie (22.38)
Christie has not run a championship 200m for six years and is unlikely to now. Balfour is and will be the top two of 1995, are back from injury and the latter may have run out of time. Dato has the talent but has yet to perform on the big occasion.		
400m	45.84sec	R Black (44.77), I Thomas (44.89), J Baulch (44.77), D Loder (45.57), M Richardson (45.42), D Grindley (45.68)
The glamour event of the championships and a time below 45 seconds will be needed to take the Atlanta team. Old hand Black, and the two young Welshmen Thomas and Baulch have prepared well. However, Richardson, Loder and Grindley respectively Britain's best of the past three years, have disappointed and may have overtrained.		
800m	1:46.5	D String (1:46.38), C Wilson (1:46.27), C Robb (1:45.73)
String has been in this event since the beginning of the decade and is the favourite. In Atlanta would be a shoe-in, but in Birmingham, it is the unknown and may be returning to form after illness.		
1,500m	3:38.0	T Whitman (3:35.37), J Mackie (3:35.41), G Stewart (3:36.66), N Cuddy (3:39.58), M Kelly (3:39.40)
Fitzmaurice has not come good recently. However, British did place two in the world's 1,500 in 1995. Whitman will start in the first but could be exposed if the pace is slow. The holder Mackie looks a fair bet to qualify, the third spot being wide open.		
5,000m	13:29.0	J Nuttall (13:27.48), R Denham (13:34.3), K Cullen (13:27.00), A Pacey (14:13)
Nuttall has not won a 5K in over five years but has shown much the best form in 1996. Denham last year's AAA champion, has shown his back again in the trials. Pacey, who has been in the top three in the trials for the last two years, has been in the top three in the trials for the last two years.		
10,000m	28:10.00	J Brown (No 1996 time), I Robinson (28:04.02), G Staines (No 1996 time)
Staines-based Brown, a former 5,000m champion, has moved up and is a threat to the European 10,000m champion and successful in the trials. Robinson, a graduate from a US university, is a virtual unknown over here.		
20,000m	8:30:00	J Cheston (8:29.84), K Cullen (8:30:00), T Horton (No '96 time), S Duval (No '96 time)
Cheston is probably the favourite for the 20,000m. Horton and Duval have yet to contest the event in 1996. Duval is on the way back after injury in the winter and Cheston should regain the title he won in 1994.		
30,000m	13.24	T Jamett (13:24), C Jackson (13:32), N Owen (13:52), A Tullock (13:54), P Gray (13:51)
Jamett will be a highlight of the weekend. Jackson has won the title six times, most recently, has never tasted victory. However, he has to be favourite. The Olympics is the only championship Jackson has yet to win and the event at which Jamett has yet to win a medal.		
400m hurdles	50.04	J Ridgson (49.84), P Crampton (49.83), L Lynch (50.39), P Crampton (50.16), G Cadden (50.17)
Having missed two years through injury, Ridgson's return is remarkable in terms of speed and most welcome as the event needs a boost. He may challenge the world's best but he will probably have to wait until 1997.		
800m hurdles	2:27	S Smith (2:30), D Grant (2:28)
Smith is Britain's No.1 since 1992, while Grant was the best for the four years before. Both have won medals at the highest levels but not at the Olympics. Each has two AAA titles. It is difficult to know which one will win their first in 1996.		
Pole vault	5.60	N Buckfield (5.65), P Williamson (5.40), M Edwards (5.45)
Buckfield is the clear No.1 and looks certain to improve upon his own GB record. He is capable of reaching the Olympic final. It seems unlikely that any other vaulter will achieve 5.60 metres in 1996, although Neil Winter did so in 1995.		
Long jump	8.00	F Sells (7.79), D Ritchie (7.53), N Morgan (7.55)
British weakest event and a long shot that anyone will exceed 8m - a distance which is almost routine for Lynn Davies 30 years ago. Contrasting the trials, have the recent record but fail to sustain progress once in the senior ranks.		
Triple jump	16.85	J Edwards (17.55), T Aggrey (16.86), J Gully (16.53)
Jon Edwards, world champion and world record-holder, has failed to reach the Olympic final. He will need to exceed 17m to be sure of a place. Aggrey, who has been in the top three in the trials for the last two years, has been in the top three in the trials for the last two years.		
Shot	19.50	S Phipps (19.50), S Phipps (19.50), M Phipps (19.50)
Phipps will have bolstered his prospects considerably. He was in the top three in the trials for the last two years. He was in the top three in the trials for the last two years.		
Discus	62.00	B Weir (62.02), G Smith (62.34)
Weir, 35, by no means too old in this event, competed at the Los Angeles Games in 1984, won eight years of US football. A great technician, he has improved to 62m in trials, ultra-consistent at around 58m fully deserves a place.		
Hammer	74.00	D Smith (75.10), M Jones (73.74), P Reed (71.88)
Smith has provided considerable future optimism for British hammer throwing. He has won the trials for the last two years. He has won the trials for the last two years.		
Javelin	80.00	M Hill (78.76), C Macdonald (79.94), N Noland (79.94)
Steve Back, the 1992 Olympic bronze medalist, is still recovering from an ankle operation. He is due to compete in a fortnight. Hill, also plagued with injury in 1995, can reverse early season defeat by Macdonald and claim his sixth AAA title.		
100m	11.44sec	S Jacobs (11.51), P Thomas (11.49), S Knecht (11.50), G McLeod (11.49), M Richardson (11.47)
No one has been able to achieve the Olympic standard in 1996 and this event is wide open. A metre is likely to separate the first six. For whoever does gain selection, two in the Atlanta semi-finals will be a fine achievement.		
200m	23.24sec	K Merry (22.69), S Jacobs (22.95), C Murray (23.47)
Merry, so long considered the saviour for Britain in the sprints, has gained considerable confidence in her third place at the European Cup. Jacobs, aiming for her fourth Games medal, won a relay bronze in 1984, may be the only other selection.		
400m	52.34	D Fraser (52.37), M Neef (No '96 time), A Cuthbert (52.08), P Smith (52.76), I Staines (53.41)
Neef, 1995 No.1, has not raced a 400 outdoors in 1996 through injury and has missed the last six weeks. Fraser, who failed to finish last year's 1,000m, has won her first senior title. Staines is in form and can obtain a relay place.		
800m	2:01.0	K Holmes (1:58.20), D Modahl (2:00.95), S Bowyer (2:02.12)
Wayne medalist Holmes can win without a doubt. In 1995 she set an 800m record and won by 40m. Modahl, who has done so well to achieve the qualifying time after just six races, won the first of five titles a decade ago.		
1,500m	4:10.0	K Holmes (4:04.56), S Parker (4:11.96)
Holmes is considering this event also - a double never previously achieved. She has won the trials for the last two years. She has won the trials for the last two years.		
5,000m	15:45.0	S McGeorge (15:29.04), A Wyeth (15:18.98), P Radcliffe (No '96 time)
Radcliffe, who clearly has Olympic medal potential, has struggled with injury all year. She is also far from 100 per cent but is going to run. As a result, McGeorge, the 1994 3,000m winner, who dropped out when leading last year, is favourite.		
10,000m	32:30.0	Murray and Hill have ruled themselves out. This leaves Britain with no legitimate contender. Wild McPherson needs to improve more than 45 seconds on her last attempt in May.
20,000m	13.14	A Thorp (13.02), J Aggrey (No '96 time), D Ashgreen (13.44), S Ranganathan (13.40)
Thorp, who has never won this title, looks set to miss the event due to injury. Aggrey, the 1994 European Cup winner, has won until 30 June to regain form. Newcomer Dato, 23, has performed outstandingly all season and is approaching world class.		
30,000m	56.14	S Gunnell (55.84), L Fraser (57.50), L Brunning (57.34)
Gunnell has looked rusty in her three outings of 1996 and has considerable improvement to make just to reach the Atlanta final. In her favour, the world's best are not running too well themselves.		
400m hurdles	1:32	D Marr (1:34), L Haggitt (1:30)
Marr, 27, a 12-year veteran international, is having her best year. Contrastingly, Haggitt has lost form in recent weeks. At the Olympics, Britain won silver at every Games from 1936 to 1980 but we have had no medal contenders for over 20 years.		
800m hurdles	6:55	D Lewis (6:56)
Lewis is Britain's only jumper who comes close to world class. However, in Atlanta, Lewis is Britain's only jumper who comes close to world class. However, in Atlanta, Lewis is Britain's only jumper who comes close to world class.		
1,500m hurdles	13.75	A Hansen (14.84), M Griffith (14.05)
Hansen, twice European Cup winner, is the world's second longest jumper of 1996. Griffith, however, has been in the top three in the trials for the last two years. Griffith, however, has been in the top three in the trials for the last two years.		
5,000m hurdles	18.00	J Davies (19.01)
Davies, 30-year-old, is showing further than at any time since 1988 and is now among the world's top 10. Fourth in the 1984 Olympics, she was in retirement four years ago. A record 14th AAA title will be a foretell.		
10,000m hurdles	60.00	S Drew (57.34), J McKernan (60.04), D Galloway (58.56)
Our standard bearer, Atchman, finds that teaching commitments have restricted her progress in '96. Her advantage is the considerable gap in experience between her and her rivals. She is the only currently active thrower to win the AAA title.		
20,000m hurdles	60.00	T Sanderson (60.84), S Holroyd (57.60)
On the threshold of a record-equalling sixth Olympic appearance, Sanderson, the 1994 champion, achieved the standard, following a three-and-a-half year retirement. She will need to improve by five metres to be in the reckoning for a medal.		

Only use these tags: **h1**, **h2**, **h3**, **h4**, **h5**, **h6**, **h7**, **h8**, **h9**, **h10**, **h11**, **h12**, **h13**, **h14**, **h15**, **h16**, **h17**, **h18**, **h19**, **h20**, **h21**, **h22**, **h23**, **h24**, **h25**, **h26**, **h27**, **h28**, **h29**, **h30**, **h31**, **h32**, **h33**, **h34**, **h35**, **h36**, **h37**, **h38**, **h39**, **h40**, **h41**, **h42**, **h43**, **h44**, **h45**, **h46**, **h47**, **h48**, **h49**, **h50**, **h51**, **h52**, **h53**, **h54**, **h55**, **h56**, **h57**, **h58**, **h59**, **h60**, **h61**, **h62**, **h63**, **h64**, **h65**, **h66**, **h67**, **h68**, **h69**, **h70**, **h71**, **h72**, **h73**, **h74**, **h75**, **h76**, **h77**, **h78**, **h79**, **h80**, **h81**, **h82**, **h83**, **h84**, **h85**, **h86**, **h87**, **h88**, **h89**, **h90**, **h91**, **h92**, **h93**, **h94**, **h95**, **h96**, **h97**, **h98**, **h99**, **h100**, **h101**, **h102**, **h103**, **h104**, **h105**, **h106**, **h107**, **h108**, 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Guide by Ian Hodge

Success at last in search for a perfect partner



Law: Finally in the saddle seat. Photograph: Emphas

Leslie Law has waited a decade for his first call-up to the British 'three-day event' squad. It was scarcely a surprise when it came on Sunday (he was, after all, the highest-placed British rider when finishing fourth at Badminton), but he still found it a great pleasure to have his place in the Olympic squad confirmed.

Law has long been regarded as a talented horseman. He won a section of the Windsor three-day event back in 1989 and came first in two sections there the following year. But he was then riding for Revel Guest's Cabalva Farm, where young horses were trained and then sold on.

"It was a shame to see them go, but I knew the score when I went there and I just accepted it," Law said. "Revel gave me the opportunity to work with quality horses and I'm grateful for that."

She had also given him the chance to work with show-jumping horses during the two years he spent in the United

ATLANTA COUNTDOWN

No.1 LESLIE LAW

States. It was an ideal preparation for eventing, in which contests can be won or lost on the drop of a single pole.

Law was patient ("you have to be with horses") while he waited for potential equine stars to arrive in the yard that he now rents to the west of Gloucester, at the foot of May Hill. The first of them, New Flavour, came on a temporary basis in 1994. His rider Nicky Coe (the wife of Sebastian) was then expecting her second child. Law rode the horse into fourth place at the Roekelo three-day event in the Netherlands that year.

Happily for Law, the horse returned permanently last autumn, when a third Coe baby was on the way. He had already welcomed Capitano, who was sent to his yard on the

recommendation of Bridget Parker, chairman of the selection committee.

Both horses ran at Badminton in May and it was New Flavour who made the bigger impression, finishing fourth. He was seen as a star by his three joint owners: Sebastian Coe, his father-in-law Roger Elliott and Diana Fitzroy. "He's a lovely little horse, and very laid-back," Law said. "You can rely on him not to blow up in the dressage. If anything, the crowds help by giving him a bit of a lift."

New Flavour acquired many more fans at Badminton, where he jumped clear in the cross-country and show jumping. Afterwards the horse stood quietly in the midst of the collecting-ring hubbub. It was Law's 31st birthday and fourth

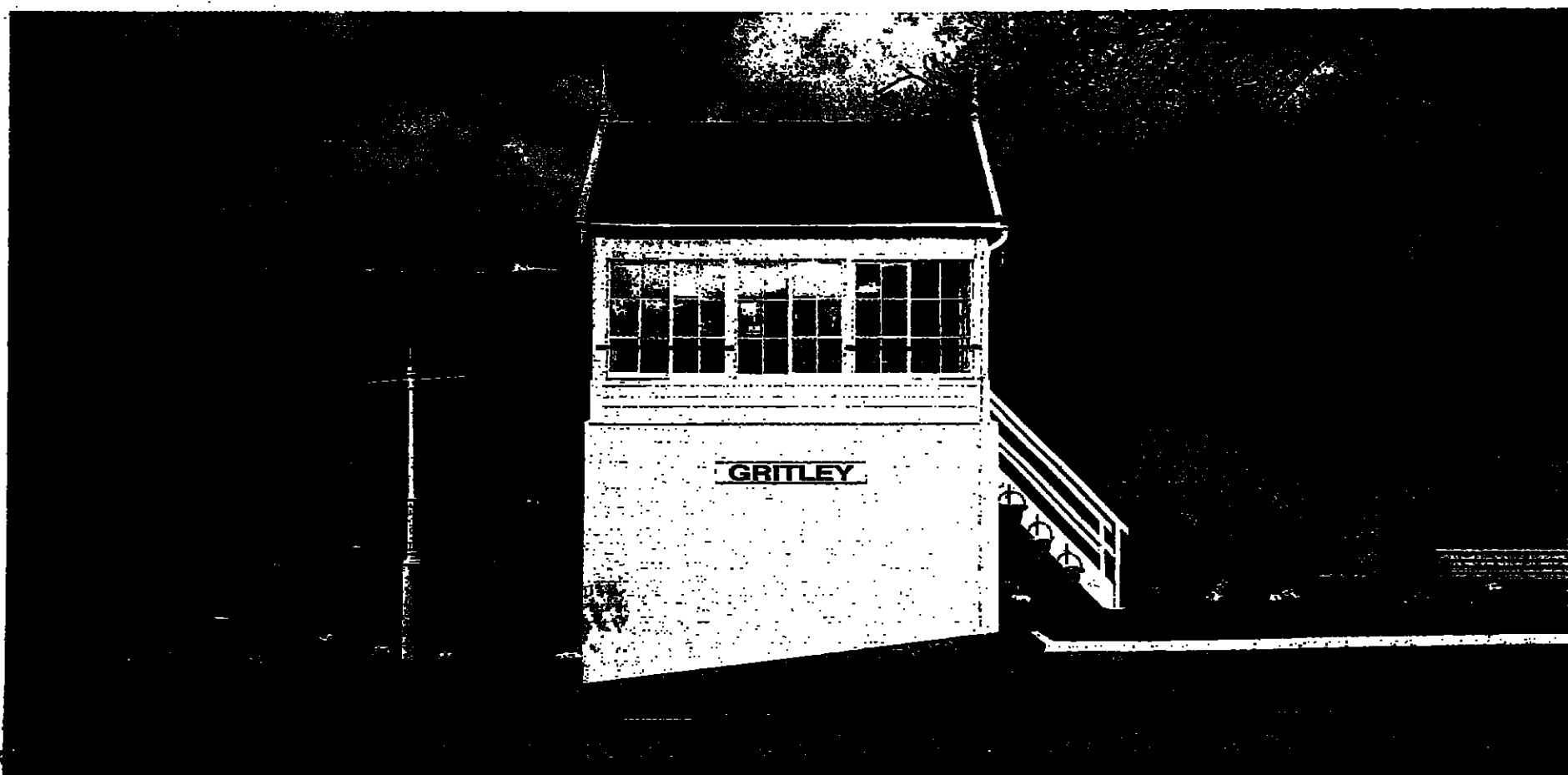
place at Badminton was a wonderful present.

For the first time there will be separate team and individual three-day event competitions at the Olympic Games. Law does not mind which one he rides in. "I'm just very pleased to be going," he said, in the accent of Hereford where he and his brother Graham (also an event rider) were born and brought up.

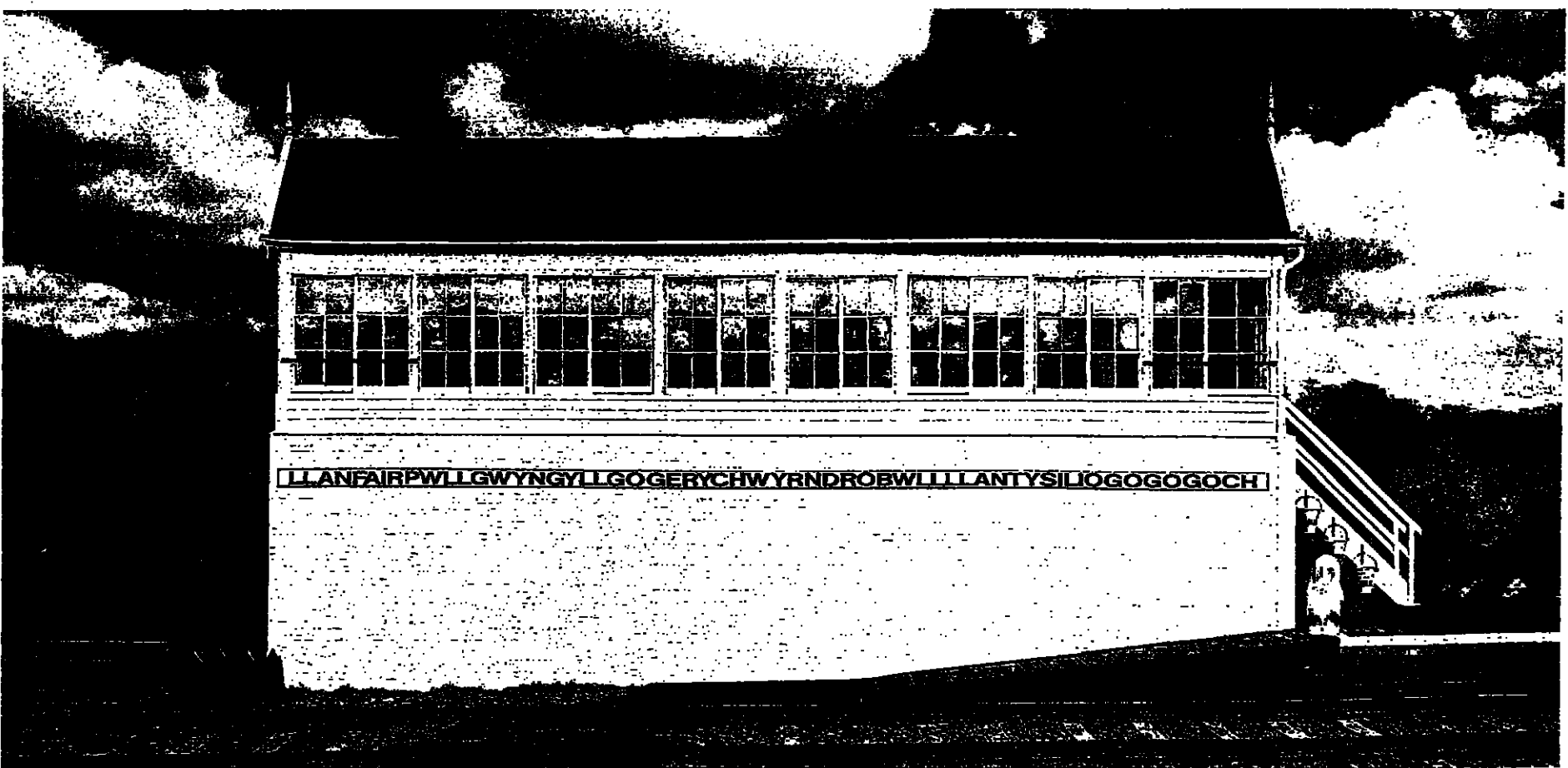
Extensive research by the Animal Health Trust has shown that small thoroughbred horses are best equipped to cope with the heat and humidity of Atlanta in mid-summer. New Flavour, just 16.1 hands, fits the bill perfectly.

"He's small and wiry and he has loads of stamina," Nicky Coe said of the horse she acquired for the joint owners six years ago. She thinks that New Flavour is "fabulous". Now, having gone to Law, the little horse might prove it to the rest of the evening world at the end of July.

Genevieve Murphy



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8 playing the game

Gentleman's relish opens up to the masses

Report
by Paul Trow

For most people finding their feet in the game, the process of trying to join a golf club is about as pleasurable as having a tooth extracted.

Traditionally, men and women seeking club membership undergo a vetting process which lays bare their private lives and business dealings, as well as their golfing prowess, to the most intrusive scrutiny.

Throughout this ordeal, the impression is given that one word or gesture out of place is all it takes for your application to fail. Quite apart from the social stigma, rejection also means you are cast into golf's outer darkness of municipal driving ranges and pay-to-play courses.

There are, unfortunately, still too many instances of this scenario for golf to claim, truthfully, that it is a classless game. Channel 4's infamous *Cutting Edge* programme a few years ago gave a fly-on-the-wall insight at Northwood in Middlesex which confirmed many preconceptions about suburban golf clubs.

Of course, the burghers of Northwood were simply aping the small handful of clubs even further up the social ladder which regard themselves as existing exclusively for gentlemen.

However, any outsider who has been impertinent enough to try to get a game at, for instance, Muirfield, occasional venue of the Open Championship, home to the Honourable Company of Edinburgh Golfers and, by self-appointment, Britain's poshest club, will know what it feels like when you attempt to rub shoulders with such gentlemen.

Despite this harsh attitude towards the great unwashed in certain quarters, golf's popularity is growing and the accessibility of the game has never been greater.

In the half of this decade alone, 476 new courses have opened to increase the total number of outlets in the British Isles by almost 30 per cent. A £1.5bn development boom was triggered in the late 1980s by *Demand for Golf*, a report from the Royal & Ancient Golf Club of St Andrews, which called for 200 new courses to cater for people who wished to take up the game (and an extra 200,000 names have been registered with the English Golf Union since then).

Inevitably, many of the resulting projects ran into financial problems. Either they cost too much to build at a time when the recession was biting and interest rates were high, or they were too far from the big population centres.

In the case of the former, not enough people could afford the



On the green: it will cost you about £30,000 to join the London Club, but many other courses also charge by the round

Photograph: Adam Scott

SO YOU WANT TO... JOIN A GOLF CLUB

means that more than two million people will venture on to a course or a driving range at least once a year.

This widespread interest in the game is in some ways a surprise. Despite the excitement generated by Europe's Ryder Cup triumph last September and Nick Faldo's dramatic escape of Greg Norman in the Masters, the circulation figures for Britain's four monthly golf magazines have dropped by almost a third over the last 18 months. And much of the tournament golf that used to appear regularly on terrestrial television has been banished to the inevitably smaller audiences serviced by satellite channels.

But while the media coverage may not currently appeal to golf's wider public, the game is set for a summer of feverish activity with so many clubs competing to recruit people whose activities to date have been confined to playing at the local pitch-and-put.

The average subscription at the newer clubs is £466, a decline of 7 per cent on last year's. Hegarty added, "And 36 per cent of new courses don't charge a joining fee for membership at all. Many of those who do pay a joining fee enjoy varying degrees of refundability and can invest in debentures as well."

Even though inflation is now almost as low as the England football team's goals-per-game average, many of the older clubs seem set in the milk-a-captive-audience mode,

and routinely hiking subscriptions by up to 10 per cent. Only an uprising of poll-tax proportions is likely to upset this status quo at golf's more established homes, but the time could come when some members vote with their feet and defect to clubs which offer better value.

For newcomers who have yet to commit themselves to a particular club, it is a different story. "Green fees are also coming down," Hegarty said. "That gives players who don't belong to a club the opportunity to sample a variety of courses in their area. The consumer wants choice, not just over which club to join but whether to become a member at all or remain a green-fee player."

"More than half the people who play golf in this country do so fewer than 10 times a year. In those

circumstances, it doesn't make financial sense to be a member of a club. Apart from the cost of taking up golf, the main deterrents for beginners and inexperienced players are the game's relative difficulty and the time it takes to play.

"In the first instance, it's important to receive tuition from a PGA professional. The time problem is easily solved if we overlook the tyranny of the 18-hole round. There's no reason why we shouldn't play six or nine holes if we want to."

"Apart from rival clubs, courses now face competition from 600 driving ranges in Britain as well. Whatever anyone might say, the power definitely resides with the consumer at the moment."

One suspects that not too many of Muirfield's Honourable Company will visit their local driving range or join one of the newer clubs this summer, but that should mean more room for the rest of us.

10 dos and don'ts

You've finally cracked it. The secretary has written to confirm your application to join the club. But as a new member you are of probation, at least for your first 10 years. If you thought the interview was gruelling, imagine how tough life will be now you are under the microscope of the entire membership. This checklist of dos and don'ts may at least help to ease the embarrassment of those first few years.

1. Even if you're a rock star, arrive in a clothing context with your status. Under no circumstances should you wear jeans. If you're in jeans, the club will probably not be allowed to play unless you are in jeans.

2. Never wear a T-shirt without a collar. The secretary likes to be something to grab when he needs to frogmarch you off the premises for conduct unbecoming.

3. Never wear trainers. They are a state-of-the-art piece of footwear that make your feet sore, hard-ground, are de-regulator, a thing some courses now favour but per se which are gentler on the greens.

4. Never wear ankle-length socks if you are in shorts. The socks should go up to your knees, and your shirt should go down to your knees. You're not there for a sunbathe.

5. Never tuck your trousers inside your socks when the ground is muddy. This deprives the pit of an opportunity to tell you one of those ludicrous Plus-Fours he's had stuck since Roger Davis made them briefly fashionable in the 1970s.

6. Always have your own bag of clubs. Sharing clubs is strictly not allowed. It's also a bit silly one of you is left-handed.

7. Never leave your bag in the green when putting. Newbies in front of the green or on the wrong side, either, otherwise the spin playing behind you will be a really-made excuse for missing his next shot. You will be blamed.

8. Never use a motorised buggy. If the temperature is pushing 80F unless you can prove you are the victim of a medical condition. Check first that your doctor isn't a member of the club.

9. Always read the club notice board at every opportunity. It is the committee has written the Rules of Golf overnight.

10. Always address everybody with a respectful regard of "Sir" or "Ma'am". The club is a place where you are expected to be a gentleman. The club is a place where you are expected to be a gentleman.

Royal Porthcawl, Mid Glamorgan

Opened: 1891
Owned by: Membership
Membership: 800
Waiting list: None (membership granted by invitation only)
Joining fee: Double the annual subscription
Annual subscription: A private matter between the club and its members
Green fee: £45 a day, £50 at weekends (very restricted)
Facilities: One 18-hole course which has staged five Amateur Championships and last year's Walker Cup

Forest Pines, Lincolnshire

Opened: 18-hole course designed by John Morrison opens next week
Owned by: Private company
Membership: Halfway to target of 450
Waiting list: None
Joining fee: £750 plus VAT
Annual subscription: £550 plus VAT
Green fees: £25 a round, £30 a day
Facilities: 27 holes, a 50-bedroom hotel, 17-bay floodlit driving range, and a leisure complex to be completed next year

Muswell Hill, North London

Opened: 1892
Owned by: Membership
Membership: 570
Waiting list: Three months to get in. Usually starting with a five-day membership
Joining fee: £1,050
Annual subscription: £598
Green fees: £23 a round, £30 a day (weekends restricted)
Facilities: 18-hole course

Bathgates, West Lothian, Scotland

Opened: 1892
Owned by: Membership
Membership: nearly 800
Waiting list: 15, delay no more than six months
Joining fee: £440
Annual subscription: £220
Green fees: £15 a round, £20 a day; £30 a round at weekends (restricted)
Facilities: 18-hole course

Carlisle Bay, St Asaph, Cornwall

Opened: 1926
Owned by: Hotel group
Membership: 550
Waiting list: 15, delay no more than six months
Joining fee: £320 plus VAT
Annual subscription: £320 plus VAT
Green fees: £25 a round
Facilities: 18-hole course, adjoining four-star hotel

The London, near Brands Hatch

Opened: 1993
Owned by: Private company
Membership: 350
Waiting list: None
Joining fee: £20,000 (share in the club), plus £1,000 (debenture), plus £4,000 (initial fee), plus VAT
Annual subscription: £1,350 plus VAT
Green fees: None (members' guests only)
Facilities: Two Jack Nicklaus-designed hole courses; luxury club house including Japanese bath. Plans to build a course (an 18-hole pay and play)

JUST THE TICKET: a weekly guide to what's on where for the spectator

FOOTBALL: Tottenham European Championship Group A: Sunderland v Nottingham (12.30) at 12.30; Ipswich v Bolton (1.30) at 1.30; Arsenal v Liverpool (2.30) at 2.30; Manchester United v Newcastle (3.30) at 3.30; Chelsea v Everton (4.30) at 4.30; Wimbledon v Blackburn (5.30) at 5.30; Reading v Millwall (6.30) at 6.30; Luton v Barnet (7.30) at 7.30; Notts County v Grimsby (8.30) at 8.30; Torquay v Bournemouth (9.30) at 9.30; Exeter v Yeovil (10.30) at 10.30; Dagenham v Ebbsfleet (11.30) at 11.30; Maidstone v Dover (12.30) at 12.30; Dover v Maidstone (1.30) at 1.30; Dover v Maidstone (2.30) at 2.30; Maidstone v Dover (3.30) at 3.30; Dover v Maidstone (4.30) at 4.30; Maidstone v Dover (5.30) at 5.30; Dover v Maidstone (6.30) at 6.30; Maidstone v Dover (7.30) at 7.30; Dover v Maidstone (8.30) at 8.30; Maidstone v Dover (9.30) at 9.30; Dover v Maidstone (10.30) at 10.30; Maidstone v Dover (11.30) at 11.30; Dover v Maidstone (12.30) at 12.30; Maidstone v Dover (1.30) at 1.30; Dover v Maidstone (2.30) at 2.30; 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Lord's the perfect place for 'Dickie' to bid adieu

The nation's favourite – and best – umpire will draw stumps on a unique 27-year career after the second Test against India next week. **Derek Pringle** talked to him

If the people at Disney ever feel the urge to create a cartoon character from cricket, they need look no further than Test umpire Harold Dennis 'Dickie' Bird. With his trademark flat white hat and a whole repertoire of idiosyncratic ticks and twitches, he is more famous than all but a handful of Test cricketers, proving that, for the chosen few, fame and vocation can still find you after 40.

Mind you, the animators will have to hurry if they want to catch him live in all his splendour. After donning said white cap and coat for 66 Tests, 95 one-day internationals – including three World Cup finals – and 27 years of airline adjudication, his Dickies are about to hang them up, and retire from the international arena.

He will be 64 next birthday and feels the younger umpires ought to be given the chance in what he believes is an increasingly arduous but better paid job. Still, umpiring well – he came 14th last year on marks given by county captains – he decided some time ago that next week's Test at Lord's would be his last, though he plans to carry on at county level for another season.

"It's going to be something special though," said Bird, whose package for his last Test in 1973 came to £25 – the current fee is £2,200. "There is nothing to compare with Lord's on Test match day. And when I walk down the steps from the umpires' room, down through the Long Room and out on to the grass, it will be a very emotional occasion for me, and I think I'll probably shed a few tears."

Well, we'll see all. It is a sad fact of this age of standardisation that characters who can combine a high level of skill with the propensity for a, are increasingly rare. Even us owls, who have cursed and spouted disbelief at rejected lbws, witness him, in spite of the constant stream of "Not outs" that have ennobled over the years from this hairest of umpires to impress when p's are struck.

In fact, Dickie's mere presence in a county match seems to bring on a bout of irrational behaviour among seam bowlers. After a career of trying to convince and jostle for the downwind, wind-assisted end, they are suddenly happy to take on gales and Eigerke slopes just to be away from him – the belief that any inquiries for lbws are far more likely to be answered in the affirmative by the umpire.

"People say I'm a 'not outer'. Well, I probably have been hard on lbws. But the thing I've always tried to be consistent to both teams. In any case I was involved in a Test out in Povo Spain, between the West In-

dies and Pakistan, where there were 17 lbws in the match. That's a world record, though, of course, I didn't give them all," he smirked with a knowing glint of a man unlikely to go out in a blaze of leg-before.

The fledgling Bird, who went to the local secondary modern in Barnsley, and played a lot of football as well as cricket, was far less cautious, he assures you. "My big mate was Tommy Taylor, who died in the Munich air disaster. I played inside-right with him at school and did well enough to be approached by Sheffield Wednesday and one or two other First Division clubs."

However, nothing came of football, so he played cricket for Yorkshire instead, joining them in 1956 when they closely shadowed Surrey as the most dominant county force in the land.

As an opening batsman, he admits to being something of a struggler and a regular berth for his native county eluded him. Undeterred, he left and joined Leicestershire in 1959. The move was prompted when he was dropped following an unbeaten 181 against Glamorgan – his highest first-class score – on a raging turner at Bradford Park Avenue.

"There was a selection committee of 39 there that game, and I remember Brian Sellers coming into the dressing-room and saying: 'Well played Birdy, but get thee head down, that's in second team next match. We've dropped thee.' Mind you, I wouldn't have minded so much if it had been a flat pitch."

He retired in 1964, but did not apply to become an umpire until 1969. A spell of coaching at Plymouth College sustained him until JJ Warr, the former Middlesex and England fast bowler, suggested he apply for the umpires' list.

"At the time I thought 'you must be joking. Umpiring, that's the worst job in the world'. But I gave it some thought and when some of the old mates at Yorkshire reckoned it were probably the next best thing to playing, I applied."

"My first game was Yorkshire v Surrey at the Oval in 1970. I was so nervous I arrived at a quarter to six in the morning, so as not to be late. Of course the gates were shut, so I had some explaining to do when a London Bobby caught me trying to climb in."

It is not the only time he has been the early bird: he arrived four hours early at Buckingham Palace to have lunch with the Queen and receive an MBE – an event, he says, was the best day of his life.

Keith Fletcher, Essex's godfather and guru, reckons Bird is easily the best and most consistent Test umpire



Natural habitat: Dickie Bird at home in charge of a Northants 2nd XI match at Milton Keynes this week Photograph: Robert Hallam

he's seen and tougher than he makes out. The impression of being frail and downtrodden with worry is simply a mask.

Certainly, he has never run away from the issue of intimidatory bowling. Many will remember the blazing rows over excessive use of the bouncer with Clive Lloyd at Edgbaston in 1984 and Andy Roberts, when he was coaching the West Indies, at Old Trafford last year. But in this controversial area that continues to blight the game, he has never

once been publicly backed by the Test and County Cricket Board.

Apart from two holidays a year at the Livermead Cliff hotel, where he likes to breakfast every morning on kippers, he relaxes, he claims, by working. He doesn't mind criticism, and as long as people get their facts right he accepts it as part of the traditional banter that goes on in the pub afterwards.

"With all the money coming into the game, the need for the perfect decision is growing, though I don't

like the mass appealing that has crept in with it. There is no doubt that the use of electronic aids for line decisions has been a tremendous help. I can see it being used soon for low catches [like Graeme Hick's scooped catch at slip to dismiss Vikram Rathore at Edgbaston] but not for other decisions."

He has seen more of the modern greats from closer quarters than most, rating Dennis Lillee's 5 for 15 and John Edrich's 37 on a treacherous rain-affected pitch at Ed-

gbaston in 1975 as the best bowling and batting he's seen. Surprising then, that he does not mourn the demise of uncovered pitches.

Nor, he claims, will he miss the briefcase full of formulas and conversion charts that now accompanies the modern umpire.

"When I started I thought umpiring was giving them in, or giving them out. All that's changed and although after Lord's I'll miss the buzz of the Test matches, I'll miss those bloomin' maths tables."

Restoring Yorkshire to a bed of roses

THE WEEK AHEAD

Bitter years of empty promise have taught those whose hearts beat for Yorkshire cricket to view even the most optimistic circumstances warily. Ask whether, at last, a revival of substance is under way and the majority would probably prefer to reserve judgement.

These would almost certainly include their new captain, the redoubtable David Byas, who is fast restoring the stereotypical image of his breed to its full former glory. A ruddy-cheeked farming man, he is not one to waste words, especially on matters of mere speculation.

Not that he is without opinion: simply sparing in the way he presents it. "I have maintained from the start that we can beat anybody, if we consistently produce our best form," he said after Monday's defeat of Surrey had lifted his side to the top of the County Championship table.

If he did not add: "...and I think this year we can win the title," it is because in the light of the first statement, his belief in the second, he would argue, should be blindingly obvious.

Byas is bluff, gruff in the best Yorkshire tradition; or the worst, depending on your view. To some he may appear as rather curt and dismissive, almost disdainful. To others, however, in his silence lies his strength.

And this strength is fundamental, providing at last a clear focal point to the county's ambitions. Yorkshire have gone back to basics in methodology, dispensing with their manager and investing unblinded authority in their 32-year-old captain. Byas has the experience, the character and the sureness of thought to be revered by the young academy boys who hold the key to the county's future. Others must be reassured to know precisely where they stand.

So far, so good. Top spot in the Championship, a semi-final in the Benson and Hedges Cup and a handy position in the Sunday League to boot. And what form those youngsters have shown. The fledgling openers, Michael Vaughan and Anthony McGrath, 21 and 20 respectively, overflow with promise. Chris Silverwood, the 21-year-old seam bowler, looks a prospect, too.

Meanwhile, Michael Bevan, an Australian curiously blessed with Yorkshire manners, has more than 800 Championship runs. Craig White, the Anglo-Aussie whom Raymond Illingworth held in such regard, has been fully rehabilitated. Even Darren Gough, after a troubled year, is showing signs of a return to his best.

The authenticity of Yorkshire's current form, Byas maintains, will be proved not by six Championship matches but by 17. Nevertheless, it is difficult to suppress entirely the excitement tickling their supporters' calm. Nor to deny the next few days will answer some questions, if not all.

Once the confrontation with Lancashire in the Benons is out of the way, Byas's team face the incumbent champions, Warwickshire, over four days in Leeds, starting tomorrow. It is as good a test of their credentials as they could face at this stage.

There will be no Nick Knight for Dermot Reeve to pick, the England player having again broken a finger. Tim Munton and Gladstone Small remain injured but the depth of the Warwickshire squad is enough to accommodate such inconveniences. Their hunger, too, shows no sign of diminishing, sharpened, even, by the defeat of previously unbeaten Somerset in the last round, which put them only 11 points off the pace.

But the keenness of competition at Headingley will be matched at Canterbury, where Kent, who lost pole position in a fairly tame draw at Leicester, take on a Middlesex team seeking a third Championship win in a row.

Jon Culley

The player who shows most independence, who rails at those in authority, is the one most likely to be leadership material

CORRECTION. This column, in common with others, may occasionally have given the impression that the England cricket selectors were not out of their minds. It may even have suggested that the chairman of said selectors, Mr Raymond Illingworth, was somewhat out of touch and lacking in man-management skills. There is, as we now see, not the slightest truth in these allegations, which we unreservedly withdraw.

Credit where it's due. England were very good at Edgbaston, and the selectors played a blinder. Having got almost everything right in the one-day internationals, they could have done the obvious thing and have stuck with the same players. Instead they dispensed with more than half the squad: not just Neil Smith and Mark Ealham, but Alfie Brown, Matthew Maynard, Alec Stewart and Darren Gough, and used the vacancies to open the pipeline from

the A team. There were promotions for Ronnie Irani and Min Patel, and recalls for Nick Knight and, above all, last winter's England A captain Nasser Hussain.

Hussain could easily have been ignored on the grounds that he did not have enough runs this season: 351 at an average of 32 when the squad was picked. Once in the squad he could easily have been the batsman to miss out, since John Crawley was the resident No3 when he was injured in Durban last December. It cannot have been much fun for Mike Atherton and David Lloyd to tell their mate Crawley that he had again been unlucky. They took the unusual step of informing Hussain last Tuesday that he would bat at three, whatever the other permutations.

They also told the press, most of whom then made Hussain their story on Wednesday morning. This

could have backfired, and perhaps it did briefly – it's hard to find another reason why this excellent fielder's first contribution to the match should have been to drop a sitter at cover.

But the benefits outweighed the dangers. What the management were saying, loud and clear, was the thing all managements, in sport or outside, ought to say more often than they do: we believe in you. Atherton had made the same point another way two weeks earlier, ringing Hussain to tell him that although he was not in the one-day squad, he was in the selectors' thoughts. By such little bits of consideration are careers revived.

On this Edgbaston pitch no batsman could survive for long without luck, unless his name was Sachin. But you have to make use of your good fortune and Hussain added another hundred runs after getting that



TIM DE LISLE

generous reprieve from umpire Hair. (Friday was a bad Hair day; Saturday was an even worse one.) Exactly half of Hussain's 128 were made in company with the debutant tailenders, Patel and Mullally. He had said that he was looking forward to batting higher than No6 for the first time; the way things turned out, there wasn't a lot of difference.

Marshalling the tail requires leadership as well as skill. It was clever

of the selectors to pick Hussain for this Test, but it was even more so to make him captain of the A team last September. This appears to have been a late decision: Alan Wells revealed this weekend that he had a call from Illingworth checking whether, if he didn't make the senior party, he would be happy to resume at the helm of the junior one. But it had been noted that Hussain made a fine start as vice-captain of Essex, and the selectors overlooked the fact that his career was littered with bust-ups and tantrums.

This was a real step forward. If there's one thing cricket administrators hate, it's temperamental young players. Mark Ramprakash, Hussain's friend and fellow firecracker, was unofficially suspended by England for a year after some little local difficulties at Middlesex. Hussain showed dissent in both his first two innings for England, in St

Kitts in 1990, and was given a fearsome dressing-down by Graham Gooch. This may have had something to do with the fact that Gooch's successor as captain of Essex was Paul Prichard.

On tour with England A, Hussain received nothing but praise. "He was immensely mature in his leadership," said tour manager Mike Vockins – the Rev Mike Vockins, that is. Team manager John Emburey went further: "If Mike Atherton was to get ill or injured, Hussain could be a very good replacement." This was said in December, and seemed far-fetched. Now, when the only other possible captain in the team is Jack Russell, it looks eminently sensible.

Another remark of Vockins's caught the eye. "I knew of his reputation," he recalled. "He was said to have been volatile, mercurial, temperamental – all the things one

might worry about in a captain."

This is the orthodox thinking. And it is wrong.

Hussain is not the only example in cricket of a rebel turned leader. Ray Illingworth himself was a pretty obstreperous England captain, while Atherton looked like a model citizen, captain of Cambridge and all that, but soon turned out to have a streak of cussedness. Football has thrown up more examples, from Graeme Souness to Dennis Wise. You might call it Captain's Law: the player who shows most independence, who rails at the often petty manoeuvrings of those in authority over him, is the one most likely to be leadership material.

Assuming that Hussain has now made the Test grade, the selectors will have to look elsewhere for the next A team captain. It should be a close-run thing between Ramprakash and Phil Tufnell.

Shopping

ADDITIONAL CRICKET LINE COPY
ON P20-24 TEAM COPY



Above: a group of Dutch supporters find their rhythm during the half-time break of the game against Scotland
Below: the referee Joe Cortez leads the bloodied figure of the legendary Mexican Julio Cesar Chavez to the doctor in the fourth round of his fight against Oscar De La Hoya in Las Vegas. The fight was stopped later in the same round, with De La Hoya acclaimed as the best Hispanic fighter in the world

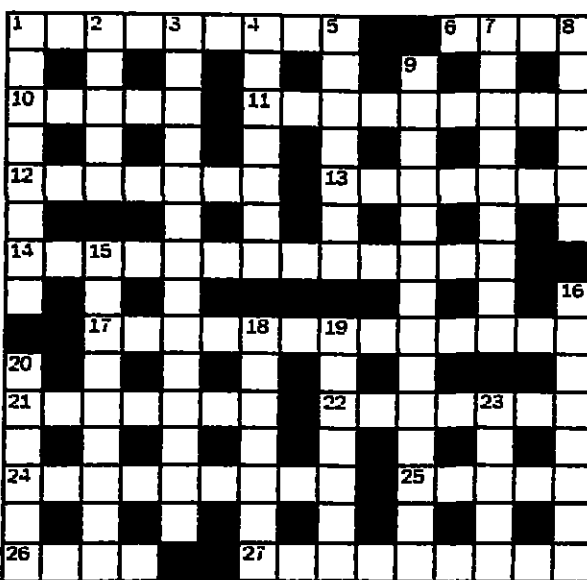
Photograph: David Ashdown
Photograph: Reuter

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

No 3012, Wednesday 12 June

By Aquila

Thursday's Solution



CARLINE CHATFIELD
A E N O O E G O
C A S E T T E D E M A T
H E O I N B S
E N R O I D A M A S C E N E
T V V I A R A
T R E N E R S I R O L I G H T
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H U I L U G
V E A R N P I E R O S A U R
S R G A E R L I
I N T R O I D H I D D E N

- ACROSS**
- Entertainer replied in Morse, reportedly (13-6)
 - Enormous clasp, easy to open (4)
 - Stud often seen in Hull? (5)
 - Source of light's gone to hell, using parasols (9)
 - The French following lorry in Reading, say (7)
 - One who trains police-dog or bover (7)
 - Exhausted from old-fashioned standing (3,2,4,4)
 - Men's auditions going badly (more than one fell here) (13)
 - Pen, the main port of Wales? (7)
 - American writer finding God, close to water (7)
 - Removal of this paper may make people cry (3,4)

- DOWN**
- Adaptation of Verdi's Force of Destiny? (5)
 - Drinks for kids (4)
 - Reviving Roman thing with top priority (9)
 - Ripped up new road, like Escamillo (8)
 - Focal-point of tea-maker about four (5)
 - Vatican nun lost, sadly not fitting after such treatment? (14)
 - Channel Islands' duck in a tank (7)
 - Local offices not opening for American spreads (7)
 - Neat stringed instrument, ruined on the outside (9)
 - Protect from scolding (biting head off) (6)
 - Rotten swindler chosen is a weak, upper-class type (18,6)

- 15 A striking bar-counter? (9)
16 Uncle set to cook anything edible (8)
18 Dog that follows better half around Harrow? (7)
19 Trendy nurses with means (7)
20 Partner of wild scoter (6)
23 Crack used by the literati? (5)



Did you guess our hidden personality?

The home-loving, wife-reporting Renaissance man with a famous father and brother is **BRUCE GUNTER**. The hero of the Rangers part of Glasgow scored twice in the Scottish Cup final, as well as laying on a hat-trick for Paul Gascoigne and has already got off the mark in Euro 96, scoring for the holders, Denmark, against Portugal on Sunday.

ALFRED DUNHILL

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